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THE TIMES

Europa looks at monetary and economic union

Egypt expels Arab envoys after Tripoli declaration

Four Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization yesterday formed a unified military front against Israel. Syria, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen decided to freeze relations with Egypt, which retaliated by telling their ambassadors to leave. Mr Vance, American Secretary of State, is to tour the Middle East this weekend to arouse support for President Sadat's peace initiative.

Unified military front against Israel

From David Watts
Tripoli, Dec 5

A new alignment of anti-Sadat Arab states emerged today as five rejectionist leaders signed the Declaration of Tripoli containing a series of political and economic measures designed to undermine the Egyptian leader's rapprochement with Israel.

But the Iraqis, the extremist diehards among the rejectionists, found themselves excluded, at least temporarily, from the anti-Sadat camp and walked out of the conference last night.

In the final communiqué the delegation leaders of Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization announced the formation of a unified military front of confrontation.

They also decided to freeze diplomatic relations with Cairo, take sanctions against any Egyptian company or individual doing business with Israel, move the headquarters of the Arab League from Cairo and called on all Arab states to give full financial, political and military assistance to Syria as the main confrontation state.

Although it condemned President Sadat's Israel visit as "high treason", the communiqué avoided any reference to Resolution 242 of the United Nations, which provides for all the states in the area, including Israel, to live within secure and recognized borders.

The Iraqis had originally demanded that the final communiqué include a rejection of Resolution 242 but this was not acceptable to the Syrians and the Iraqis walked out of the meeting.

At a press conference this morning, Mr Taha Jazrawi, the leader of the Iraqi delegation and a member of the country's Revolutionary Command Council, said that Iraq had proposed that a committee be set up to prepare a further summit in Baghdad at which a united front would be formed in order to give the Syrians time to reconsider their position. But during the Tripoli meeting President Assad had shown that he still believed in "peace settlements and other meetings".

There was no serious obstacle in the way of a unified stand by all six leaders, Mr Jazrawi said, but the "peacemakers were using this conference as an umbrella".

He asserted that the declaration signed by the other five leaders "would not achieve anything", adding that "we shall go on in our efforts until another real chance comes to establish this front". But observers doubted that there was now much prospect of a Baghdad meeting.

At the close of the press conference the Iraqi delegation leader said that his country would not now render any military assistance to the Syrian Government until it had changed its position on Resolutions 242 and 338.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is considered the closest to the Iraquis among the main PLO factions, said he thought the Iraqis had made a tactical error in walking out of the conference, but he was confident that there would be further developments

The communiqué was careful to point out that the confrontation front was open to all other countries which wanted to join, thus leaving the door open for the return of the Iraqis.

Beirut, Dec 5.—Iraq refused to join the common front against Egypt because its programme was too vague, President al-Bakr has told Colonel Gaddafi, Baghdad Radio said.

He also strongly criticized Syria for continuing to accept the possibility of a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Cairo, Dec 5.—Egypt today broke relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen. Their diplomats were given 24 hours to leave.

The break came only hours after they had joined in a relatively restrained pledge to "freeze" relations with the Egyptian government. Libya had been pushing for an outright break with Cairo, and had unilaterally severed ties immediately after Mr Sadat's visit to Israel.

Ironically, Cairo did not sever ties with Iraq, which stormed out of the hardline meeting in Tripoli because it believed their response to the Egyptian peace move was too moderate.—UPI.

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Leading article, page 15

Sudden Vance journey to hardline capitals

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 5

Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, is to visit a number of Middle East countries, starting with Cairo on Friday. A State Department spokesman said the trip would enable Mr Vance to convey directly to the Arab leaders the importance the United States attaches to the peace initiative started by President Sadat, and to the Cairo conference which he has called.

Those Arab leaders who have rejected the call to Cairo would not be invited to change their minds because it would probably be too late, the spokesman said. It would be most surprising, however, if Mr Vance did not try to do so, whatever his spokesman says.

It is not really to be supposed that he would succeed in Syria. Indeed, it is not yet known whether he will be including Damascus in his trip.

But Jordan might be more easily persuaded. Mr Vance will visit Cairo, Jerusalem, Beirut, Amman and Riyadh after first attending a Nato meeting in Brussels on Thursday. He expects to return to Washington on December 15 and his exact schedule has been left vague to allow him time to visit Damascus if he is invited.

He will be accompanied by Mr Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, who is representing the United States at the Cairo conference, now planned to open on December 14.

The Under Secretary of State, Mr Philip Habib, whose speciality is also the Middle East, is in Moscow talking to the Russians about the latest developments. He will join Mr Vance on his travels.

It was made clear by the spokesman that Mr Vance will not carry specific American proposals for a Middle East settlement with him. This is not the moment, just before the Cairo conference.

Under an aid agreement signed here today, the United States will give Israel $785m (£436m) next year, of which $485m will be commodity import loans and grants, and the rest a grant to help the Israeli economy. Israel will also get $1,000m in military aid.

By comparison, Egypt will get $750m in economic aid next year.

Wholesale price rises lowest since April 1973

By Melvyn Westlake

A continuing sharp decline in Britain's inflation rate during the early months of the new years seems virtually certain in the light of government figures, published yesterday, showing the favourable price trends now being experienced by industry.

According to the Department of Industry, wholesale or factory-gate prices showed their smallest rise in November for any single month since April, 1973. Moreover, the cost of industry's raw materials and fuel is now less than it was a year ago.

In the coming months these favourable trends will be translated into a slower rate of increase in the cost of living.

The rise in factory-gate prices last month of 0.3 per cent, compared with a rise of 0.7 per cent in October.

Just as significant, wholesale prices have risen in the past six months at an annual rate of 9.5 per cent, the first time for some years that the rate of price increase has, on this measure, been in single figures.

As recently as last summer, the annual rate of increase over the previous six months was above 22 per cent.

Prices in the shops will be rising relatively more slowly just at the time when the Government will be faced by a number of key wage demands for public sector employees.

This will help to strengthen the hand of public sector employers in resisting claims that are above the officially desired level.

Between January and April more than 2.5 million public sector workers are due to negotiate fresh wage agreements. Wage settlements considerably below 10 per cent are still hoped for by ministers.

In an attempt to press this case, Treasury ministers are now forecasting that inflation will be down to between 6 and 7 per cent by early next summer.

Yesterday's wholesale price figures certainly give some support to these forecasts. November was the fourth good month, and prices have risen by a total of only 1½ per cent since August. A slower rise in the price of new vehicles

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Commons insist Crown Agents inquiry must be in public

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

In an astonishing play of backbench power not seen in the Commons for many years, MPs on all sides joined forces last night to reject, by 158 votes to 126, the Government's proposals for a secret committee of inquiry to investigate losses of at least £200m by the Crown Agents.

Faced with an alliance of right, left and centre, Mrs Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, was left in no doubt that a secret inquiry was not acceptable and that whatever form of investigation is set up, it must be held in the full light of day with all the powers necessary to call witnesses and papers. Voting against the Government were 74 Labour MPs, seven Liberals, six nationalists and 71 Conservatives.

Among the surprising charges during the debate was a statement by Sir Harold Wilson that Mrs Hart, after coming to him with "horrifying" evidence, had been threatened with defamation proceedings if she disclosed all she knew about the Crown Agents' activities.

The Government will now have to reconsider its plan for an inquiry under Sir Carl Aarvold, former Recorder of London, and it is expected to accept the view of most MPs that in spite of cost and possible delays a tribunal should be set up under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act, 1921. That would sit in public and have power to call witnesses and papers.

As the vote last night was technically on the motion to adjourn, the defeat ended the sitting of the House. Government business for the rest of the night was lost.

Cabinet to decide on Thursday what the Government should do next

It was clear from an early stage that the Government was in trouble. Mrs Hart, with Mr Silkin, the Attorney General, giving legal advice from a seat close to her, was inundated from all sides with demands that the Government should think again.

Mr John Mendelson, a leading members of the *Tribune* Group of left-wing Labour MPs, who initiated the emergency debate, said it was essential to find the people who must carry the responsibility for the scandal. If they had moved elsewhere that was no argument for not exposing them. The report, he said, was a shocking indictment of the background and atmosphere in which operations described took place.

In a last-minute attempt to fend off a vote, the minister promised reconsideration, but scenting victory, MPs stormed into the division lobbies. The message from the Commons was clear, that ministers would be acting in defiance of Parliament and of the country if they went ahead with a procedure that would appear to be a cover-up for governments past and present, as well as for many of the most revered institutions, including the Bank of England and the Treasury.

But it was probably Sir Harold Wilson, Prime Minister for several of the years in which the Crown Agents were suffering losses, who swung MPs against the Government's case for a secret inquiry.

To murmurs of approval, he told the House how Mrs Hart had come to him with documentation that was horrifying" even if only partly true. It was now known to have been an understatement. But Sir Harold went on, she ran into a formidable system of fortifications obstructing her progress. He said he preferred not to use the word "onspiracy" but there was certainly a closing of the ranks and a cover-up.

Praising Mrs Hart's efforts, Sir Harold said she was warned

Continued on page 2, col 5

Refreshment for Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, while President Giscard d'Estaing, of France, studies a document at the start of the EEC summit in Brussels yesterday. Report, page 17.

Bermuda curfew eased and first troops to be flown back to Belize

From Michael Leapman
Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec 5

After another night of comparative peace here, Mr David Gibbons, the Prime Minister, announced that the curfew in effect for the past three nights would be eased to begin at 9 pm instead of 5.30 pm. Later, Sir Peter Ramsbotham, the governor, disclosed that a third of the British troops who arrived here yesterday at his urgent request would be leaving tomorrow.

The 80 men of the Royal Regiment of Wales, who were dispatched from Belize, are to return tomorrow to continue duties guarding the border with Guatemala. They had been sent here only because they could arrive a few hours earlier than the company of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, which came from Britain.

At the time the request was made, Sir Peter thought those hours could be vital in containing an explosive situation which did not, in the event, arise. The fusiliers will stay until things return to normal.

Mr Gibbons said that if things remained calm the curfew, imposed after riots and arson by youths protesting against the hanging of two black murderers, would be lifted altogether in a few days.

Sir Peter said calling in the troops had been a calculated gamble. On Saturday there was a daylight confrontation between youths and the police in Hamilton. It was feared the mob planned to march on the city centre and burn shops and restaurants.

Also, the attacks seemed to have been concentrated on food shops. "If more food stores had gone, we would have had a problem there", he said. Today there was no evidence of the panic buying seen on Saturday.

The risk, on the other hand, was that the presence of British troops might inflame anti-white feeling. "It revives the colonial stigma", Sir Peter said.

He did not, however, believe the youths were politically motivated. They were out for kicks and against all authority. Like young people everywhere they were affected by drugs and by violence on television.

Although the riots were not serious in the sense that hardly anyone was injured, he said, the damage to property worried people in so small a community. "It is as though all this were to happen in Cheltenham", he said.

Mr Gibbons, at his press conference, made the same point about the nature of the disturbances. Bermuda rioting, he said, was mild "compared with Washington or Notting Hill".

Discussing the political context of the past few days' events, Mr Gibbons pointed to progress made in racial equality in Bermuda. More and more blacks were being appointed to positions of authority, particularly in government, he said. Unemployment, at under 2 per cent, and inflation, at 4½ per cent, were among the world's lowest, and income per head was among the highest.

He was strongly critical of statements made yesterday by Mrs Lois Browne-Evans, leader of the Opposition, accusing her of "attempts to damage national unity and harmony".

This, he said, struck at the heart of Bermuda's social fabric at a time when unity was needed more than ever.

Troops arrive, page 5
Parliamentary report, page 10
Leading article, page 15

Mother spurns rescue to die with children

A mother refused to leave her three children yesterday as their home burnt. Neighbours had urged Mrs Cheryl Dale, aged 24, to jump from her bedroom window.

She was found in the front bedroom of her council house in Council Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, near the body of one of her children. The other two were found dead in the back bedroom. The children were Maxzean, aged six, Jason, aged three, and Lisa, aged two.

A neighbour, Mr George Hollis, aged 35, a fitter, was driven back by flames, as was Mr John Dale, the children's father, who was in the garden when the fire started. The two men were taken to hospital, Mr Dale with severe shock and Mr Hollis with burns to his arms and a suspected dislocated shoulder.

Mr Hollis said: "We heard the kids screaming and went round the back with a ladder. I opened the back window but we could not get in because the smoke and flames were so bad."

Neighbours tried using a garden hose and battered down the back door, but it was too late to gain entry that way.

An army team with a "Green Goddess" fire appliance arrived within five minutes of receiving an emergency call. Firemen left their picket line in Wisbech to help.

Senior Officer David Rayner, officer in charge at Wisbech, who is not on strike and was at home on standby, arrived first on the scene. He said the strike had not contributed to the deaths.

He used breathing apparatus, but got to the children too late. The family could not have been saved, he said, "because at the time the alarm was raised the house was well alight".

In east London, Sanjeen Gupta, aged six, died in a fire at his parents' shop. Four adults, including his parents, were taken to hospital.

The fire began in one of a small parade of shops in Cann Hall Road, Leytonstone, and firefighting sailors went there in Green Goddesses.

"They knew exactly where the boy was", Lieutenant Brian Davis, who was with the firefighters, said, "but it was such an inferno that there was no way we could reach him."

In Nant-y-Moel, Mid Glamorgan, Mrs Megan Thomas, aged 50, died after being overcome by smoke in a fire at her home in Pembroke Terrace on Sunday night. Neighbours fought the outbreak with hoses and buckets of water.

In Sheffield yesterday five policemen rescued four children from a blazing house as neighbours tackled the outbreak with buckets of water.

The children, two of whom had to be given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the way to hospital, were said later to be well.

Their mother, Mrs Dorothy Howe, aged 32, was rescued by Mr Michael Higgins, aged 21, a neighbour, who used a ladder to reach her at the house in Wolesley Road.

The policemen smashed the back door to reach the children, in a secondfloor attic.

Ulster warning: Northern Ireland terrorists have exploited the firemen's strike to try to kill or injure members of the security forces, Lieutenant-General T. M. Creasey, General Officer Commanding, Northern Ireland, said yesterday.

He told Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, at a security review at Stormont Castle, that some explosive devices were used to draw troops to fires so that they could be attacked.

'Settle now' poll: Almost seven people out of 10 questioned think the firemen should settle for a rise of 10 per cent in the national interest rather than maintain their demand for 30 per cent, according to a poll carried out over the weekend by Opinion Research Centre (the Press Association reports).

Almost nine people out of 10 believe that if the Government does allow the firemen to have more than 10 per cent other unions will use that as an excuse to demand more.

Sixty-three per cent of people questioned said it was "very important" and a further 23 per cent said it was "important" that union negotiators should keep demands for wage rises down to 10 per cent.

Hostility to the miners' claim seems to be common. The poll indicates that 85 per cent of voters believe it would be wrong for the miners to ask for a big wage rise less than 12 months after their last increase.

Almost the same percentage, 86, of those questioned, favoured the Government's taking a tough line with the miners if they decide to strike.

Home Office worries, page 2
Letters, page 15

Govan shop stewards reject 'blacking' plea

Shop stewards at Govan Shipbuilders on the Upper Clyde decided not to "black" any of the ships reallocated to the yard from the Tyneside yard of Swan Hunter. They called on the Swan Hunter outfitters to end their overtime ban and to pursue their claim through normal negotiating machinery. But a statement issued by the Govan convenor, Mr James Airlie, avoided committing the yard to construction of the ship Page 17

Britons among air crash dead

At least five Britons died in the Malaysian airliner crash on Sunday night, the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur announced. One was identified as a Sussex businessman. Meanwhile, there were doubts that the hijackers were from the Japanese Red Army Page 6

Students' union funds curb

The National Union of Students, voting by a narrow majority for an executive motion, decided that its union funds must not be used to support non-student causes, such as trade union strikes. Contributions to such causes should come only from the students' pockets or from specified fund-raising activities. Page 4

Arts Council's defence

The Arts Council, in its annual report, defends itself against criticism of moral laxity, Mr Roy Shaw, secretary-general, says that although people are rightly concerned about support of the arts by public money, it is neither possible nor desirable for the council to precensor arts activities Page 4

NEB Fairey bid criticized

The National Enterprise Board successfully outbid Trafalgar House to win control of the non-aviation business of the Fairey Group. The NEB's offer of £20.5m was described by Mr Victor Matthews, deputy chairman of Trafalgar, as "outrageous" Page 17

Homeland of seven parts

Seven landlocked blocks of territory spread across three of South Africa's four provinces become the independent tribal homeland for the Tswana-speaking people Page 5

Broadcasting freedom backed

The French state broadcasting monopoly has been successfully challenged in court by a pirate radio station. Page 4

Nato fears

European Nato allies fear that American plans for the next strategic arms limitation (Salt) agreement may lead to restrictions on the range of the Cruise missile. Mr Harold Brown, the United States Defence Secretary, will try to allay those fears in Brussels today Page 4

Trawlermen killed: At least three men died when a trawler sank off Land's End 2

Drugged babies: A surgeon says drugs are being given to some babies born with spina bifida to hasten their deaths 3

Royal walk: Lifts and escalators will not be working when the Queen opens Heathrow Central Underground station 4

Mr David Bruce dies aged 79

Washington, Dec 5.—Mr David Bruce, the former United States Ambassador in London, Paris, and Bonn and former American representative in Peking, died here last night at the age of 79.

Among his other posts was chief Vietnam negotiator in Paris in 1970-71. He fought in the First World War

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The Queen on Christmas TV

The Queen's broadcast will be televised on Christmas Day at 3 pm on BBC1 and at 5.40 pm on BBC2 and jubilee year will be recalled in three Christmas programmes, the BBC said yesterday.

The emphasis over the holiday period will be on home produced comedy and drama.

Mr Benn fears party organization is Pandora's box

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour policy-makers were warned yesterday by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, that they would open a Pandora's box of complaints if they decided to have an inquiry into the party's structure and organization.

Some trade unions are pressing for an inquiry, but the party's organization committee, after arguments between left and right, decided to postpone any decision and to invite further evidence from affiliated unions.

The first stop will be to ask Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, who initiated the demand for an investigation to attend next month's meeting of the committee to put his views.

Left-wing members wanted the matter dropped, but, on the casting vote of the chairman, Mr Bryan Stanley, of the Post Office Engineering Union, which has also asked for an inquiry, the committee approved the idea of seeking further information from the unions.

The committee also decided to recommend the suspension from membership of the two Oxford lecturers, Mr Paul McCormick and Mr Julian Lewis, who have been taking legal action against the national executive over the Newham, North-east Affair.

That recommendation, which has to be ratified by the full national executive, will depend on further legal advice. But the committee did decide to institute an inquiry into whether the two men's activities are contrary to the constitution of the party and to the rules of the constituency party, and prejudicial to the best interests of the party.

The committee was split along ideological lines over the process of reselection of Labour MPs. Mr Jack Ashley, a member of the Manifesto Group, accused Mr Mikardo, of the *Tribune* Group, of misleading the party conference over the automatic reselection of MPs.

Again, on the casting vote of Mr Stanley, the committee agreed to set up a working party to consider the matter.

HOME NEWS

Fires reach 4,928 in week after drop at beginning of strike

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The number of fires has been rising after a marked drop at the start of the firemen's pay strike, which began on November 14, according to Home Office figures released yesterday.

The weekly total of reported fires remains below average, thanks apparently to the Government's campaign to encourage greater vigilance. But whereas in the first week *of the strike there were only* 3,992 fires in the United Kingdom, compared with the average November weekly total of 5,600 last week there were 4,928.

Deaths in fires, of which, up to 9 am yesterday, 63 had been reported since the strike began, are at a slightly higher rate than usual for the time of year, three a day over the three weeks.

That average is usual over a year, but the daily toll in recent Novembers has been only 2.5.

The Home Office *said last* night that 13,734 fires had been reported since November 14, compared with a normal total for three weeks in November of 16,800.

An official expressed concern that people appeared to be *becoming blasé.*

The next stage in the dispute will be decided when the 16 members of the Fire Brigades Union executive meet in London today to consider strategy in the light of Friday's decision by the TUC's finance and general purposes committee not to support a national campaign against the 10 per *cent limit on average earnings* rises.

Mr Ronald Scott, secretary ot the Strathclyde branch of the FBU, said yesterday that a quarter of his men would leave their jobs if the Government did not meet the firemen's claim of a rise of 30 per cent.

"How they make up that figure is a matter for the employers or the Government", he said, "but the men are saying that if they do not get a rise this time there is not going to be a fire brigade."

Neither the Home Office nor the employers' side of the national joint council was able yesterday to state how many firemen have decided to resign.

The FBU says that of the 30,000 full-time firemen on strike a few hundred have probably done so.

The FBU's Tyne and Wear brigade committee stated yesterday that it would not try to obstruct troops who crossed *picket lines to release equip*ment or to use fire stations.

Mr John Miller, secretary of the union's county branch, said the assurance to the county council was given after complaints about the Army's living conditions and equipment, and suggestions that there would be "bloodshed" on the picket lines if the Army moved into fire *stations.*

He added, however: "I hope the troops will not try to use fire station equipment, because it would endanger soldiers' lives if they were to do so without training." But the statement "did not mean that equipment *and accommodation so used* (by troops) will not be blacked by our members".

The FBU has received £1,000 from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Foundry Section) and £5,000 from the National Union of *Railwaymen.*

The NUR said the union did not necessarily support the firemen's case as a matter of policy.

Houses won 'historic' status after being burnt

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A public inquiry into a new road scheme which begins today may shed light on mysterious goings-on in the town of Trowbridge, Wiltshire. At the very least, events suggest imperfect liaison between government departments and between Whitehall and local authorities.

Early last summer numbers 10, 12 and 14 Ashton Street were destroyed by a fire or, some say, two fires. The houses are, or were, listed as of historical interest.

The use of tenses becomes *somewhat complicated* in that they were not so listed when, as it were, they were still there, but they have now been listed when not much of them is left.

Quite why, or *how*, the fire or fires started is difficult to elucidate. According to one *local resident* Home Office officials were making a film on arson and things got out of hand.

The Home Office denies any such suggestion. "We disclaim all knowledge of any film we have undertaken on arson, *which has involved* the destruction of property in Trowbridge", an official said.

A reporter on a local newspaper said he thought there had been two fires. The first, which he reported for his paper, was found to have been started *by tramps; the second, shortly* afterwards, went almost unremarked.

He added that much of the area, which had been blighted by the road proposals for the past 12 years, was derelict

West Wiltshire District Council knew *nothing of two fires.* "I do know that we gave permission to the local fire brigade *to use some buildings* in that street for practice", an official said.

He agreed that the three houses concerned would not have needed to be demolished to make way for the proposed road, although it would pass *very close. But they* were in an area scheduled for clearance, and were not "spot-listed" by the Department of the Environment until after the fire.

Asked why it had decided to list some 30 houses in the neighbourhood at such a late stage, including *the three destroyed* by fire, the department explained that it had only recently resurveyed the area. *It* had not previously realized that the buildings were threatened by the road proposals, although the plans had been published as long ago as 1965.

Theft by policeman

Peter Gerald Matthews, aged 31, a police officer, of Chapel Walk, Hendon, London, who was due to join a special squad to catch shoplifters at the Brent Cross shopping centre, was fined £80 by Hendon magistrates yesterday for shoplifting.

Commons debate today on dismissal of sheriff

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

The ordered dismissal of Mr *Peter Thomson, Sheriff of South* Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, for alleged political activities, will be debated in the Commons today on the initiative *of Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour* MP for Stirlingshire, W.

Mr Canavan will seek to have the dismissal order by Mr Millan, Secretary of State for *Scotland, annulled. If the move* fails, the dismissal will take effect immediately.

The trouble arose from the publication of a pamphlet by *Mr Thomson urging a plebiscite* on Scottish home rule.

Although Mr Millan is anxious to have the issue fully debated in the Commons there seems to be little sympathy for the sheriff in government circles. An attempt to allow him to appear before the Commons was rejected.

Lord Emslie, Lord Justice-*General* of Scotland, Lord President of the Court of Session, and Lord Wheatley, the Lord Justice-Clerk, had investigated a similar charge against *him three years ago when a* final warning was given.

In April his pamphlet was handed to Mr Millan. The judges wrote to Mr Thomson, *who did not reply or provide* the explanation they requested.

In a report to the Secretary of State, they accused Mr Thomson of gross discourtesy *and found that the pamphlet's* publication constituted political activity incompatible with holding judicial office. Because of that and the earlier case the sheriff, according to the judges, was no longer fit to hold office.

Mr Millan told Mr Thomson of the finding and asked him to make representations. No *reply was made, and Mr* Thomson, who had been appointed a sheriff 22 years ago, became the first holder of the office to be removed on political *grounds.*

Mr Thomson says he is not a member of any political party. The pamphlet, he said, explained his long-felt conviction that a *plebiscite* was the only way of discovering how many Scots wanted no change in the system of government and how many wanted a particular change.

At a press conference in Glasgow he spoke of "the Scots disease", which he defined as an endemic reluctance among those in responsible positions to talk about the future of Scotland or its constitution. Whatever happened to him, he added, he would continue to campaign for a plebiscite because for many years he had felt it was his duty to do so.

Since the press conference Lord Kilbrandon, who headed the Royal Commission on the Constitution, was inadvertently brought into the case. He made no direct reference to Mr Thomson's *arguments, but said* during a speech in Edinburgh that the Act of Union between England and Scotland had been an act of political convenience *for which it was not easy* to perceive an overriding necessity in the 1970s.

That view prompted a Conservative MP to demand the same treatment *for Lord* Kilbrandon as Sheriff Thomson had received. Lord Kilbrandon had, of course, preempted any such action by retiring.

Men killed as huge wave sinks trawler

The trawler Boston Sea *Ranger sank with a confirmed* loss of three lives yesterday after being struck by a huge wave five miles off Land's End. A search for two other men was *abandoned after hope* had vanished that they could still be alive.

Mr Ian Lace, the skipper, who was rescued with two other *men*, said at Newlyn, Cornwall, that he had jumped from the trawler a few minutes before it went under. The wave had flooded the open fish storage compartment, causing the boat to capsize, he said.

It was all over in seven or eight minutes, he *said*. The third man, who was a strong swimmer, took off his life jacket and gave it to another member of the crew, and then *swam to one of the rafts* that had been launched.

Mr Lace also took off his life jacket, checked that all had abandoned ship and jumped into the sea. The upper superstructure hit him as it sank, he said. He found Mr Michael Reynolds, the mate, and Mr Raymond Palmer, another member of the crew, on a raft.

The dead men are: Mr Thomas Switzer, of Pennington, Hampshire; Mr John Clarke, aged 22, of Lowestoft: and Mr Anthony Smith, aged 31, of Cobenham, Great Yarmouth.

The missing men were identified as Mr Michael Studd, of *Lowestoft, and Mr Ernest* Le Poidevin, of Wrentham, Suffolk.

The Department of Trade has ordered a preliminary inquiry into the loss of the Boston Sea Ranger.

In the same area less than three weeks ago, the coaster Union Crystal sank with the loss of five men.

A rescue attempt involving five ships was mounted last night when a fire broke out in the engine room of the Rose Daphne, a South African-owned vessel, 150 miles south-west of Land's End. Signals from the vessel, which has a crew of 29, *indicated that the fire* was under control but that power had been lost.

Councils ask for powers to speed urban renewal

By Our Local
Government Correspondent

Powers to speed urban renewal should be available to all local authorities with inner-city difficulties, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, was told yesterday.

A delegation from the *Association* of Metropolitan Authorities and the London Boroughs' Association have made their plea as the Government prepares legislation to meet the urban crisis.

In a consultation document published in the summer the Government suggests that new powers might include the right to make 90 per cent loans for erection *and improvement of* industrial buildings, 90 per cent loans for land purchase, grants to assist with rents, and loans for site preparation.

Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the association, said the powers should not be reserved for a favoured few councils, but should be available to any city that felt the need.

He said the *Government* had created a league system to distinguish between its partnership areas and other areas with serious inner-city difficulties. "This may be necessary where financial assistance is concerned but it should not apply where such legal powers as these are concerned. No authority would use such powers *unless it genuinely* felt that to do so was in the interest of its communities."

The delegation also asked Mr Shore to ease restrictions on the Community Land Act and for more action to encourage the release of void and unoccupied *land* for urban renewal.

Mr Smart said great strides had been made in the past year towards meeting inner-urban needs, and the new legislation would be the next big step.

Government assurance: Mr Shore assured senior representatives *of the associations of* metropolitan authorities, county councils and district councils at a meeting yesterday that the Government was not trying to take over negotiations with unions representing council employees (Our Labour Staff writes).

The associations had sought the meeting after being angered *by a letter from Mr Shore* saying that, in common with other public sector employers, they should give the *Government* 14 days' notice of impending pay deals.

Heir must give up castle to marry his mistress

Mr James Bryan Bellew, heir to the Bellew barony and a stately home in Ireland, was told by Mr Justice Reeve in the Family Division of the High Court yesterday that if he wanted to marry his mistress he must give up his interest in the 320-acre family estate, Barmeath Castle, Dunleer, co Louth.

Mr Bellew, aged 57, is living in a £10,000 semi-detached house at Hollies Close, Upper Grotto Road, Twickenham, Greater London, with Mrs Gwen Hall, aged 58, known as Mrs Bellew, a journalist and former wife of a former neighbour in Ireland.

He wishes to end his 35-year marriage to Mrs Mary Elizabeth Bellew, a clergyman's *daughter*, who is still living in the ancestral home, so that he can marry his mistress.

Mr Justice Reeve granted Mr Bellew a decree nisi. But he ruled that before the decree is made absolute he must hand *over his interest* in the family estate to his eldest son, a major in the Irish Guards.

Mrs Bellew, aged 54, had opposed her husband's divorce petition on the ground that it would create hardship for her.

The judge said Mr Bellew *was willing to allow* his wife to remain in the castle if he could manage the estate. But the elder son, Major Bryan Edward (Bru) Bellow, had claimed that if his father was allowed to do that he would be left with nothing worth inheriting.

The cost of upkeep of the £250,000 estate was £5,000 a year and his father had only £4,000 a year as a shipping company accountant.

Major Bellew had said that if the estate was passed over *to him he would look after his* mother's interests.

The judge held that the couple had lived apart for five years and the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

Last night Mrs Hall said: "The divorce is more important *than the castle or anything* else. We do not really want an Irish castle, Mr Bellew was quite happy to give it up."

But she said an appeal had been lodged against the Judge's ruling because of "legal difficulties" over the castle's *ownership*. She described the castle, which has been in the Bellew family *since the seventeenth century*, as "very remote and very large".

Financier to be sued on advice to pools winner

Mr David Holmes, former *deputy treasurer of the Liberal* Party, is being sued for alleged negligence over investment advice to a football pools winner, it was disclosed last night.

Mr Terence Gibbs, a former miner, complains that he lost between £70,000 and £100,000 as a result of Mr Holmes's advice to invest part of his £169,000 pools win in a South Wales *carpet company.*

Mr Gibbs's solicitor, Mr Ian Jewell, of Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan, *said last night that* writs were being issued against Mr Holmes, a Manchester financier, and Mr John Le Mesurier, part-owner of the Pyle Carpet Company, near Bridgend.

Mr Gibbs, aged 47, of Black Mill, Bridgend, became a *Vernons pools winner* two years ago when Mr Holmes was an investment adviser for the company's big winners.

Date is set for decision on aircraft routes

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The Government will decide by *mid-January* on which route airliners leaving Heathrow airport, London, and turning south over heavily populated areas should take.

Announcing that to a meeting in London last night of MPs, local councillors and amenity noise group representatives, Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary *of State for Trade*, said the Government rejected the idea of complete dispersal of aircraft leaving Heathrow.

Mr Davis recalled that the minimum noise route down the Mole valley south of Heathrow was split as an experiment *in June, 1975, into two routes:* Dunsfold and Midhurst. Five new proposals had since been *suggested by interested parties.*

'Investigation' by PC's son led to death

From *Our Correspondent*
Southampton

Kenneth Green, aged 18, a village policeman's son, was murdered when he became an amateur detective, it was stated at Winchester Crown Court yesterday. He was pushed *unconscious into the Avon* by Ralph Liddle, aged 23, the court was told by Mr John Spokes, QC, for the prosecution.

Counsel said the attack took place on a deserted country road near Mr Green's home at Breamore, Hampshire, because he was thought to know too much.

He was knocked unconscious and then Mr Liddle dragged *him over* a barbed wire fence across the riverbank and dumped him in the water. Mr Spokes said. *He was disposed* of in such a way that his death might look like an accident. The body was not found for a month.

Mr Liddle, from Stoke-on-Trent, denies murdering Mr Green.

On the night he died Mr Green began following two strangers who had been in his favourite public house, the Bat and Ball. He thought the men, Mr Liddle and his friend, Simon White, who had failed to buy petrol from customers, were up to no good, and his suspicions were well founded, counsel said.

The men walked to the village *of Woodgreen a mile away,* where Mr White stole a Volvo car, counsel continued. While Mr Liddle was walking back towards Breamore he met Mr Green and killed him, Mr Spokes said.

After pushing him into the river Mr Liddle went to Breamore, where he was picked up by Mr White. They fetched *their friend, Kay Willis, from* the public house and drove away. Three days later the three of them were stopped on the M4 and were later arrested.

The trial continues today.

Gallantry medal awarded to Tube driver posthumously

The Queen's Gallantry Medal has been awarded posthumously for the first time, and the change in custom means that the George Medal also can be *given in future to people who* have died.

The award is made today to *Joseph Stephen, a West Indian,* aged 34, who was driving the London Underground train on which an IRA bomb exploded near West Ham station in March last year. He was shot dead as he tried to warn the driver of another train *approaching the station.*

Mr Peter Chalk, aged 25, a Post Office engineer, who was on the station platform and who was shot as he tried to help injured passengers, also receives the gallantry medal.

Police Constable Raymond Kiff, of the *Metropolitan* Police, who chased, tackled and disarmed the gunman has been awarded the George Medal.

Police Constable David Wheal, whose radio messages, while he was under the gunman's fire, alerted. Police Constable Kiff, has received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

The citation in the *London Gazette* says PC Kiff showed gallantry and devotion to duty of a very high order in facing "this dangerous and armed terrorist in the knowledge that he had already caused a bomb explosion and wounded a man".

Mr Stephen and Mr Chalk "also displayed outstanding gallantry and a complete dis*regard for their safety when they* faced this armed criminal".

The incident happened when an *IRA* terrorist realized that the bomb he was carrying was about to go off prematurely. He hurled it into the middle of the Tube train coach

The gunman, Vincent Donnelly, who also shot himself in the chest was later jailed for life.

The police chief who hurled himself at William Hughes, the Pottery Cottage murderer, as he raised an axe to kill his fifth victim is awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Supt Peter Howse, then a chief inspector with the Derbyshire police, threw himself headlong through a crashed car window to save Mrs Jill Moran. Hughes, an escaped prisoner had killed her husband, daughter and parents.

Also awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal are Sergeant Michael Fairfield, Warwickshire Constabulary, Police Constable Brian Graham and Sergeant David Hepworth, of Northumbria Police, and Police Constable Norman Wright, Metropolitan Police.

£10 allowance urged for troops in Ulster

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

The Conservative Party is to demand that all soldiers serving in Northern Ireland should be paid a tax-free allowance of £10 a week in place of the present 50p a day.

Announcing that *in* Belfast last night, Mr Winston Churchill, party spokesman on defence, said a new crisis was growing inside the Army over pay. Ever-increasing numbers of troops were seeking to leave the service for financial reasons.

Mr Churchill was in a Tory delegation of three who spent the day *visiting troops in the* province, including those in billets where living conditions have recently been the subject of harsh criticism.

He said at a press conference that pay rather than conditions was the burning issue. In one unit of 98 soldiers from 47 Field Regiment, RA, a total of *21, including four sergeants,* told the delegation that they would be leaving for civilian *life by next June.*

Mr Churchill also produced figures to support his assertion that many soldiers were earning half the rate paid to workers at the *Grunwick* factory. A married soldier in Belfast was earning £48.16 gross pay for a regular 120-hour week, he said, and in some units visited up to two thirds of the men qualified for rent rebates.

Earlier, Mr Airey Neave, *Tory spokesman on Ulster*, said that Mr Mason, Secretary of State, had pledged there would be no amnesty for *convicted* IRA men.

Man freed: A man held by the Dublin police when they arrested Seamus Twomey, the Provisional IRA leader, was freed yesterday. No charge was made.

Attempt to get prison board rulings quashed

By a Staff Reporter

An attempt started in the High Court yesterday to have quashed the decision of the Hull prison board of visitors to impose loss of remission of up to 720 days on seven prisoners after last year's Hull prison riot.

Counsel for the seven are seeking orders of certiorari to *have the board's decision set* aside, and argued that the rules of natural justice should have applied at the hearings at which loss of remission was imposed.

The hearing continues today.

Darlington journalists to urge spreading of strike

By Our Labour Reporter

The National Union of Journalists' executive will be *urged today to spread a closed*-shop strike by a hundred journalists centred on Darlington. *The six-month stoppage is* the longest in the union's history.

The strikers have overwhelmingly rejected a possible peace formula that emerged after talks in London between national officials of the NUJ, two *printing* unions and senior management. There was hardly any discussion on the central issue of the *closed shop.*

The journalists are employed by North of England Newspapers, a subsidiary of the Westminster Press group. The decision of today's special NUJ executive will be keenly watched by printing unions, *whose stoppage in sympathy* has halted several newspapers.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, is due to address his Darlington members today, no doubt to ascertain whether *they are keen to maintain their* sympathetic action.

Some of the striking journalists will lobby today's NUJ executive meeting to urge the spread of the dispute throughout Westminster Press. The strikers are receiving £40 a week from the union and are to receive a £50 Christmas bonus.

The management, acting in accordance with Newspaper *Society policy, will not concede* editorial closed shops because of the alleged threat to press freedom.

The strikers see a possible solution through management acceptance of a tacit closed shop. It would involve the NUJ's *ignoring the position of Mrs* Josephine Kirk Smith, a sub-editor whose refusal to join the union provoked the stoppage.

Choice between 'blunderbuss and injustice'

Continued from page 1

about actions for defamation involving many thousands of pounds if she published even a fragment of her evidence. She was told she might have to sell her house, and there was strong pressure against her raising the matter in Parliament. She was told that her case would collapse and that she would fall *flat on her parliamentary face.*

He urged that the inquiry should be open to MPs and the *public* and that, at the very least, it should be empowered to send for all relevant persons and papers. Clear action must be taken to end such scandalous practices and bring the system within ministerial control.

From the Conservative front bench, Sir Michael Havers, MP for Merton, Wimbledon, added his appeal. He agreed a tribunal would be costly and that there might be greater delay. An inquiry under the 1921 Act was something of a blunderbuss, but the alternative was the risk of injustice.

Only as the debate continued did Mrs Hart show any sign of *reconsidering*. Opening for the Government, she had accepted that the essence of the matter was failure of public accountability, and that meant the failure of the executive to account to Parliament. But, she *maintained*, the committee of inquiry under Judge Edgar Fay was a most effec*tive expose and hid nothing.* Nothing had been held back; it was the opposite of a cover-up.

She suggested that MPs could scarcely praise the Fay report and condemn the form of the proposed *further inquiry.*

Cabinet decision: Cabinet ministers will have to decide on Thursday the Government's view on the inquiry into the Crown Agents after the defeat (our Political Reporter writes). It is understood that Mrs Hart was *inhibited* in trying to appease critics on both sides because the Cabinet had already decided that the inquiry should be in private.

Parliamentary report, page 10

Housebuilding agency urged by TUC

By Our Planning Reporter

The creation of a national housebuilding agency with powers of last resort to build houses if local authorities fail to meet central government *targets is called for by the TUC* in comments on the Government's recent housing policy review.

It says demand for new *houses is likely to be* 300,000 a year in the early 1980s. In the first half of this year housing starts were running at a rate of only 250,000 a year, and local authority starts in England and Wales are a fifth below the projected levels for 1977-78.

The TUC also expresses concern at the review's "overwhelming bias" in favour of owner-occupation.

Soames call for competition with state companies

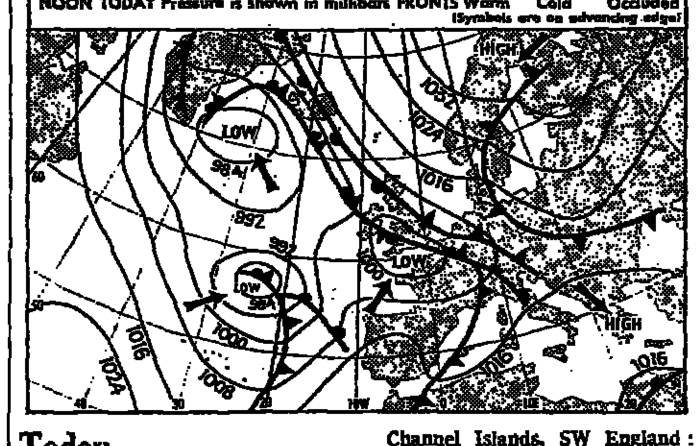
By Our Political Staff

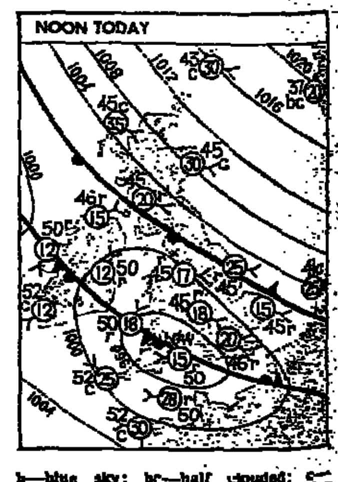
Sir Christopher Soames, the former Conservative minister and EEC commissioner, called yesterday for the introduction of competition for nationalized industries.

He questioned why all gas should have to be sold to the British Gas Corporation and asked why the producers should not sell direct to industry.

"I see no reason why the *Post Office should have monopoly* powers over the supply of telephones and other telecommunication equipment", he said. He also asked why the National Bus Company should get so much protection from the traffic commissioners when licences were *considered.*

Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow.

Today

Sun rises: 7.50 am Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon rises: 2.3 am *Moon sets*: 1.30 pm
New moon: December 10.

Lighting up: 4.23 pm to 7.22 am.

High water: London Bridge, 8.49 am, 6.0m (19.8ft); 9.43 pm, 6.4m (20.9ft). Avonmouth, 2.10 am, 10.2m (33.6ft); 2.38 pm, 10.7m (35.1ft). Dover, 6.26 am, 5.8m (19.0ft); 7.10 pm, 5.8m (18.9ft). Hull, 1.4 am, 6.1m (20.1ft); 2.8 pm, 6.1m (20.0ft). Liverpool, 6.47 am, 7.7m (25.4ft); 7.8 pm, 8.0m (26.2ft).

A SE airstream covers much of the British Isles. A trough of low pressure over *S* districts at first will move only slowly N.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, central S England, Midlands, Wales, N Ireland: *Cloudy with periods of rain; wind* SE, fresh or strong, becoming moderate; max temp 6° to 8°C (43° *to* 46°F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Rain at first, brighter later with scattered showers; wind S, SW or W, fresh or strong; max temp 10° to 12°C (50° to 54°F).

East Anglia, E, NE England: Mostly cloudy, rain at times; wind SE, strong; max temp 5° to 6°C (41° to 43°F).

NW, central N England, Lake *District, Isle of Man, Borders,* Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central *Highlands, Argyll*: Mostly cloudy, rain at times; wind SE, fresh or strong; max temp 5° to 7°C (41° to 45°F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW, Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, mainly dry; wind SE, strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Outlook *for tomorrow and* Thursday: England and Wales, cloudy, occasional rain; Scotland *and N Ireland probably mainly* dry; mostly rather cold.

Sea passages: S North Sea, *Strait of Dover*: Wind SE, strong to gale; becoming S, moderate; sea very rough, becoming moderate.

English Channel (E): Wind SE, fresh; becoming W, strong to *gale; sea rough.*

St George's Channel: Wind SE, strong to gale, becoming mainly W, *fresh or strong*; sea very rough.

Irish Sea: Wind SE, strong to gale; sea very *rough.*

Yesterday

London: Temp: Max, 6 am to 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 86 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,005.9 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, *fair*; r, rain; s, *sun*; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	f	17	63	Cardiff	c	8	46	L Palmas	f	21	70	Naples	f	10	50
Algiers	r	16	61	Cologne	s	1	34	Lisbon	r	16	61	New York	r	1	34
Amsterdm	s	0	32	Copnhgn	sn	-1	30	Locarno	s	3	37	Nice	s	12	54
Athens	f	8	46	Dublin	d	9	48	London	c	6	43	Oslo	s	-4	25
Barcelona	c	15	59	Edinburgh	s	5	41	Luxembrg	s	-1	30	Paris	f	3	37
Belfast	d	7	45	Funchal	f	23	73	Madrid	r	7	45	Reykjavik	c	8	46
Berlin	f	0	32	Geneva	c	-1	30	Majorca	c	15	59	Rome	s	11	52
Biarritz	f	15	59	Gibraltar	c	14	57	Malaga	c	12	54	Stockholm	c	1	34
Bmnghm	r	3	37	Guernsey	r	9	48	Malta	f	15	59	Tel Aviv	f	19	66
Bristol	r	8	46	Helsinki	c	-4	25	Manchstr	c	5	41	Vienna	sn	-6	21
Brussels	s	4	39	Innsbruck	s	-1	30	Moscow	sn	-7	19	Warsaw	c	0	32
Budapest	f	1	34	Jersey	c	8	46	Munich	c	-6	21	Zurich	c	-3	27

Overseas selling prices
Austria, Sch 18; Belgium, B Fr [illegible]; Canaries, Pes 55; Denmark, Dkr [illegible]; Finland, Fmk 3.35; France, Frs [illegible] (inc TVA); Germany, Dmk [illegible]; Greece, Dr 30; Holland, Dfl [illegible]; Hongkong, HK$ 6.00; Italy, Lire 600; Luxembourg, LF 22; Madeira, 20.00; Malta, 9c; Norway, Kr 4.[illegible]; Portugal, Esc 22.50; Spain, Pes [illegible]; Sweden, Skr 4.25; Switzerland, [illegible] 3.60; USA/Canada, $1.00; Yugoslavia, Din 24.

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HOME NEWS

Spina bifida babies 'given help to die'

By Our Medical Correspondent

Drugs are being given to handicapped babies to speed their deaths, a surgeon says in an article in the *British Medical Journal* today on the care of infants born with spina bifida (incomplete development of the spine and spinal cord).

Professor R. B. Zachary, who works at the Children's Hospital, Sheffield, says: "There is a widespread myth that if you operate on a child with spina bifida the child will live and if you do not operate he will die. This is nonsense. They will not all die spontaneously."

Professor Zachary agrees that some babies are born so severely handicapped that no operation is justifiable. However, he maintains that, in those circumstances, instead of giving normal care and attention, some doctors are giving the babies high doses of drugs such as chloral or morphia. "No wonder these babies are sleepy and demand no feeds", he says. "With this regimen most of them will die within a few weeks, many within the first week."

He believes that that attitude to spina bifida is a spill-over from the disregard for life evident in the present willingness to terminate pregnancy if the foetus is known to be abnormal.

"If we eliminate all the severely affected children with spina bifida there will be no more problem", he writes. But if doctors look for opportunities to make sure that severely handicapped babies died in the first few days after birth, he believes the same attitude is likely to persist with older children. He asks: "Why stop at spina bifida; why not all the severely affected spastics, those with muscular dystrophy, and those with Down's syndrome?"

Doctors who use high doses of sedative drugs in the treatment of newborn babies with severe handicap, he says, are entitled to their view that their actions are best for the child and the family, but there should be no pretence that all those babies are dying spontaneously.

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20 children hurt

More than 20 children were treated for cuts and bruises after their school bus crashed into an estate agent's office at Station Approach, Orpington, south London, yesterday.

Princess fined

Princess Margaretha of Sweden was fined £15 and had her licence endorsed by Oxford City magistrates yesterday after admitting speeding.

Commercial art galleries, 2: Recession affects contemporary works

Market improvement promises a good year

By Roger Berthoud

When one asks two dozen dealers of all sorts how inflation and the recession have affected them, the answers scarcely vary. The effects of the 1973 oil price rise and subsequent Stock Exchange slump were not felt for about six months, the usual time lag for booms and slumps to work through to the trade.

Everyone agrees 1974 was very bad. There was no great drop in prices. But owners clung on, there were very few buyers and costs rose sharply. Things began to pick up in 1975, last year was not too bad, and this year promises to be good for bigger dealers, though not back to the halcyon days of the 1960s.

Life remains difficult, however, for those less geared to exports and without the expensive stock that justifies the ever increasing expense of travel to trade fairs and clients abroad.

That is particularly true with contemporary paintings, where dealers have the pleasure of staging one-man exhibitions but also the extremely high cost of that form of "vicarious creativity", as Mrs Gillian Raffles, who shows sound figurative work at the Mercury Gallery in Cork Street, called it.

"My accountant is beginning to say shows are an indulgence," she said. Sales from stock of more expensive items are essential to stay afloat.

Cork Street has the highest concentration of modern galleries, three of which belong to Mr Leslie Waddington, and one to his father, Mr Victor Waddington. Mr Leslie Waddington, who has artists such as Elisabeth Frink, Anthony Caroe, Allen Jones and many other high flyers in his flock, merged last winter with the old-established Impressionist specialists, Arthur Tooth and Sons. He has a backer in Mr Alexander Bernstein, deputy chairman of Granada Television.

Mr Waddington said his overheads, which include staff, insurance, transport, rent and rates are about £8,250 a week, or £450,000 a year. Net profits rose steadily to £146,000 in 1973, fell sharply in 1974, but were not far below 1973 level last year.

This year, with the Tooth merger, promises to be very good, he said. Probably only 5 to 10 per cent of turnover comes from one-man shows, and the costs are "disproportionate".

"The real money is when you buy, say a Leger, for £3,000 and sell it for £30,000." He exports perhaps 90 per cent of turnover, mainly to youngish people in business, the professions and show business, in Germany, Switzerland, the United States, Canada and Japan, with some Middle East clients. "A lot of people earn £80,000 to £90,000 and have £10,000 or £20,000 to spare."

Miss Felicity Samuel with her Savile Row gallery's present "line", glass-fibre mouldings of roads and pavements.

Mr Peter Gimpel, of Gimpel Fils, in Davies Street, which has branches in New York and Zurich, puts his overheads at about £150,000 a year. "If I dealt from home I could live on selling a few pictures a year. As it is, I have to sell about £350,000 worth to cover overheads and pay myself a salary of £10,000." He has always exported virtually everything.

The falling pound has complicated life as well as increasing such costs as travel and transport. "I have to put up the sterling price of, say, Alan Davie's work over here to the dollar level, or his prices would undercut those in the United States and their value there would drop", he said.

He is disheartened by the dearth of reviews of exhibitions in the British press. "We are showmen, and get a kick out of putting on a good show and getting good attendance, even if there is no sale."

A newcomer to Cork Street is Mr James Mayor, whose Mayor Gallery, founded by his father, recently moved from South Molton Street. He worked up to 1973 at Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York, and specializes in American painters such as Claes Oldenburg, Ellsworth Kelly and Robert Rauschenburg. Clients are mainly in Switzerland, Germany and Sweden. "They come from a background of money, and have made more", he said.

He needs to turn over £500,000 a year to break even. He misses the way people flock to galleries and museums on Saturdays in New York. "People do not realize Cork Street provides a free education, what the Arts Council and the Tate should be doing, but out of our own pockets."

Miss Felicity Samuel, daughter of Lord Bearsted, of Hill, Samuel, the bankers, started her gallery in Savile Row five years ago, but found the fall in sterling put up the prices of her collection of Californian artists too sharply.

She looked for more British painters and sculptors, mainly abstract. "This gallery promotes artists. We are positively a part of their career", she said. Perhaps 10 to 15 per cent of sales are to Britons, the rest worldwide.

"In the United States in particular art has a lot of prestige. If you have a large Jasper Johns there, it is the same sort of status symbol as having a Rolls outside your door. Here it has none at all.

"But life is very civilized in London and I would not want to live in a world where every morning people are trying to pinch your clients. We do not necessarily make money every year. But we exist, and that is a feat."

Mr Alec Gregory-Hood, a former colonel, who started the Rowan Gallery in 1962, moving from Belgravia to Bruton Place in 1967, pays his artists a salary every quarter, a practice pioneered by Marlborough Fine Art.

"Some years you get it back, some years you do not." With a staff of four he reckons he can give a satisfactory service to 14 or 15 artists; his best known are Bridget Riley and Philip King.

He exports about 80 per cent. People look at the gallery's large abstracts and say: "There is no way I could get that in my room." Often they are wrong; a big painting, he said, increases a small space. "I did not believe it, but it is true."

Next: Selling to the rich.

Arts Council willing to risk giving offence for sake of development

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

People who are not prepared to have their preconceptions challenged should keep away from contemporary art, Mr Roy Shaw, secretary-general of the Arts Council, says in the council's annual report. They should expose themselves, he says, only to those heritage arts that time has rendered innocuous.

It was right that people should be concerned with the nature and quality of pictures, publications or performances supported by public money. At the same time, the Arts Council, while itself concerned, could not assume the responsibilities of the guardians of the law and public morals.

A little thought would show that it was neither possible nor desirable for the council to censor many thousands of arts activities throughout the country, "which is what would be necessary to satisfy some of its critics".

Referring to the controversy over some exhibitions at the council-funded Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Mr Shaw says that its whole year's work will continue to be taken into account when assessing grants. "There is always a chance that some one or two of its hundreds of annual activities may give offence to some people. That is a risk that must be taken if the arts are to grow and develop."

The swing from Victorian prudishness should not go as far as the abdication of judgment, he says. "But the business of drawing the line between the merely shocking and the truly objectionable is not, and never can be, an exact science, particularly when society is riven by doubts about its standards, both moral and aesthetic."

While the council was criticized for laxity in the case of the ICA, a different criticism, that of excessive moral rigour, had gone unnoticed. It had decided not to issue a catalogue for an exhibition for which it was directly responsible because one paragraph contained mainly four-letter words.

The decision was a hurried one and in subsequent discussion the council felt that the catalogue should have been distributed. It apologized to the two artists concerned.

On support for community arts, he says it would be "robbing Peter Hall to pay Paul" if the National Theatre were to be closed to find more money.

Mr Kenneth Robinson, chairman of the council, told a press conference yesterday that the National building was more expensive to run than expected.

"We have a very real obligation to the theatre movement throughout the country, and although the National has been an enormous advantage to London and the whole of Britain there is a limit to what we can do in funding it."

The council's grant in aid for 1978-79 would be known before the end of the year, he said.

The council has previously pointed out that late notification of the grant is an embarrassment to its clients, since orchestras and theatres need to plan well in advance and want to know what money will be available.

Value for Money (Arts Council, 105 Piccadilly, London, W1V 0AU, 80p).

Leading article, page 15

Battle lines drawn over road plan

Regional report

Tim Jones
Barnstaple

A battle has been unfolding in the village halls and public houses of the West Country over the past month as two sharply divided camps seek by persuasion, consultation and propaganda to determine how road transport shall develop in north Devon over the next decades.

Both sides agree that roads in the area are no longer capable of dealing adequately with the increasing flow of traffic to one of Britain's most picturesque areas, which pays the price for its beauty by a road-shaking invasion every summer.

Their differences, however, are fundamental and emotive, and it is clear that many barristers will be briefed in order to prevent the Department of Transport from achieving its aim of constructing a link road from Tiverton to Barnstaple by the mid 1980s.

For once the Department of Transport is not the universal whipping boy, for its proposals have attracted the support of industrialists, trade unionists, local politicians and MPs.

Ranged against them in vociferous unison are local landowners, other local councillors and environmentalists who fear that a concrete ribbon would devour agricultural land and scar the landscape

Throughout November the department's road construction unit mounted exhibitions in the area displaying in great detail alternative routes for the link road, which would not be of motorway standard, and asking the public to fill in a questionnaire stating preferences.

Photographs showed that the proposed road would be landscaped near Willicroft Moor, Bishop's Nympton, George Nympton, Leary Barton and High Down. Further photographs show summer traffic crawling monotonously through suffering villages without stopping for the passengers to distribute their wealth.

When Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, announced the proposed road last year he said it was designed to give commercial concerns in north Devon a much improved access to the M5, which is now the main artery to the West Country. The link, he said, would free many small villages in the area from the damage, noise and pollution of lorries.

That argument for the road has been adopted by industrialists, whose clarion cry is that man cannot live in a picture postcard. The link road, they maintain, will aid industries and attract new industry to the area to combat growing unemployment.

Visitors to the exhibitions have been met by representatives of the North Devon Link Road Action Group.

They contend that agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and service industries in the area would best be served by improving existing roads and providing by-passes for villages. They say difficulties on the roads in the area are caused by local bottlenecks, which can be overcome without imposing a "savage scar on our landscape."

The action group is supported by Lady Margaret Fortescue, who thinks a new road would lead in time to a Blackpool-style city on the north Devon coast dominated by big operators. In order to justify it, she says, future governments may urge accelerated industrial growth to the area, until north Devon as it is now becomes a distant memory.

Department of Transport experts strongly deny the claim that a new road would be much more expensive than improving existing routes and claim, indeed, that it would be cheaper.

When, as seems inevitable, a public inquiry is held, it seems likely that the loudest voice will come from the people who have filled in the questionnaire, for it is they who will have to live with whatever proposals eventually win the day.

Sir John Garlick favoured as new Environment head

By Peter Hennessy

Sir John Garlick, second Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet Office, is almost certain later this month to be named as Permanent Secretary to the Department of the Environment in succession to Sir Ian Bancroft.

Sir Ian was appointed Head of the Home Civil Service last week and is due to take up his post on January 1. The expectation in Whitehall is that an interregnum at Environment will be avoided.

The Senior Appointments Selection Committee meets in the next few weeks for its last session under the chairmanship of Sir Douglas Allen, the outgoing Head of the Home Civil Service. It is thought that the nine permanent secretaries who make up its membership will recommend Sir John Garlick's name to the Prime Minister once Sir Douglas Allen has consulted Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Sir John, aged 56, is due for a move. In October, 1974, he took over leadership of the constitution unit established by the Cabinet Office to steer Whitehall through devolution.

With the Scotland and Wales Bills on their way through Parliament, the bulk of its work is done unless ministers impose sudden and unexpected tasks on it.

Sir John has had long experience at Environment. He ran the roads programme in a period when it was absorbing much public expenditure.

The other possibility for Sir Ian Bancroft's post is Sir Peter Baldwin, who moved from Environment, where he had been Second Permanent Secretary for a short spell, to the Department of Transport when Mr Callaghan reconstituted it in September last year. He is so highly regarded there that the expectation in Whitehall is that the Prime Minister and Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, will leave him where he is.

It is not thought that Sir John will be replaced at the constitution unit. Its workload is no longer sufficient to carry a permanent secretary.

Fresh look at education 'necessary for society'

By Simon Midgley, of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*

A fresh look at the British education system from a different standpoint is essential to meet the real needs of society, Dr Patrick Nuttgens, Director of Leeds Polytechnic, suggested in a paper discussed last night by the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers.

Dr Nuttgens argued that the world of action, of making and doing, needed to be studied as "the mainspring of a relevant education and a corrective to a dead tradition".

The idea that the ordinary mind dealt with things and the educated mind with ideas; "a pure world of clear and perfect unities not to be found in the imperfect, flawed and confused world of industry and work", was exerting a stranglehold on the education system.

The academic factory was now in business, sufficient unto itself. Research, including literary research about matters so uninteresting that no one was likely to want to do it again, became the aim of the learned, and teaching a poor second, not indeed what the professors were really there to do.

Among the research a small proportion was of the utmost significance for the future of the world. But for the most part the material just poured in and out, weighing down the library floor, becoming sooner or later itself the stuff for more research and more papers.

Describing the Green Paper emerging from the "great debate" on education as "remarkable for its conventionality, its lack of ideas and its profound complacence", he said it was based on conventional accepted values—namely that the gifted should go on to academic studies while the less able turned to careers and the world of work.

One of the keys to educational progress, he said, must be to study in more detail the actual process of thinking out practical problems and making.

Any education system that ignored technology, and its root creative ingenuity, was inert and removed from the reality of our world, he said.

Student growth leaves staff behind

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Support for the university teachers' claim for an increase in pay based on increased "productivity" is to be found in the latest volume of statistics on universities, published by the Government today. It shows that while the number of full-time students rose by more than 4 per cent between 1974 and 1975, the number of academic staff increased by 0.1 per cent.

That increase in student numbers was the largest recorded in the five-year period 1970-1975; the increase in academic staff was much the smallest.

The number of full-time students in universities nearly doubled between 1964 and 1975, rising from 138,711 to 261,258. During the same period the number of academic staff went up by less than three-quarters, from 18,375 to 31,381.

The rate of increase in the number of woman students between 1970 and 1975 was almost double that for the student body as a whole. In 1975 women represented one in three (33.6 per cent) of all students, compared with about one in four (26.4 per cent) 10 years earlier. Women still account for only one in four postgraduates, however.

While the number of undergraduates increased between 1974 and 1975 in each subject group, those reading science subjects showed a much smaller increase than those reading arts subjects. The latest figures however, which are not included in this volume, indicate that there has been a revival of interest in the sciences.

The proportion of undergraduates reading a science subject fell by more than 3 per cent between 1971 and 1975, but they still account for more than half (52.6 per cent) of all undergraduates. The proportion of postgraduates reading science subjects went up in 1975 for the second year running, to 49.2 per cent of all postgraduates.

Statistics of Education, Volume 6, 1975 Universities (Stationery Office, £8.75).

Men convicted seven years ago are cleared

Four factory workers, convicted seven years ago of plotting to pervert the course of justice, were cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The four, jailed at Kent Assizes on April 24, 1970, for an alleged attempt to frame innocent men on harm charges, had their convictions quashed after Mr Edward Gardner, QC, for the Crown, had told the court that he could not oppose the appeals.

Bedi Randip Singh, aged 45, of Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent; Bakshi Singh, aged 33, of Parret Road, Gravesend, and Gurmeet Singh, aged 42, of Kenmore Drive, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, have served their two-year sentences. Charan Singh, aged 53, of Darnley Road, Gravesend, has served his 18-month sentence.

Their case was reopened by the Home Secretary and referred to the Court of Appeal yesterday after a conversation between a court interpreter and an Indian immigrant had been tape recorded. In the recording Keval Kaila, who interpreted for the prosecution at the trial of the Singhs, told the other man that they were wrongly convicted and that he had misled the court.

'Marriage' sentence

Pui Tsui, aged 28, a Chinese waiter, who was said to have gone through a marriage ceremony with an English girl to enable him to stay in Britain was given a six-month prison sentence, suspended for a year, at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Lucas firms are accused of sanction breaking

From Our Correspondent
Aylesbury

Fourteen summonses alleging that two subsidiaries of Lucas Industries broke the United Nations trading sanctions with Rhodesia are to be heard at a special sitting of magistrates at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, on February 8.

Magistrates at Princes Risborough agreed yesterday to requests by the customs and excise and defence solicitors that the case should be adjourned and that a special court should deal with committal proceedings.

The subsidiary companies are Lucas Service Overseas Ltd and CAV Ltd, both based at Haddenham.

Civic leaders call £8.75m county hall a bargain

From Our Correspondent
Newport

Gwent County Council, which is against devolution and more local government reorganization, yesterday opened to the public its new £8.75m county hall complex, which civic leaders said was a bargain.

At a press conference after a tour of the final phase, a civic block that accounts for nearly £4m of the cost, Mr J. A. D. Bray, the council's chief executive, said the project was first mooted in the 1930s when the existing county hall in Newport was too small to house all the departments.

The 22-acre site at Croesyceiliog, near Cwmbran, was acquired in 1949 but the first phase was not approved until 1969. Government delays, spending restrictions and inflation have pushed up the cost from an original £800,000 in about 1950.

The complex was worth £11m at present property values, Mr Bray said. Councillor Graham Powell said the new premises would make local government more efficient.

The new civic block contains a spacious panelled council chamber, a dining room, lounge and bar for the 78 members, committee rooms, public rooms, an assembly hall with a movable stage, and a gallery.

It is hoped that the hall, which can take nearly 500 people, will become a conference centre.

HOME NEWS

Computer-controlled journey planner, with information in three languages, at the new station.

Strike will mean Queen has to walk

By Philip Howard

December 16 will be a black day for London taxi-drivers but a red letter day for travellers. The Queen is going to open Heathrow Central Underground station, the extension of the Piccadilly Line, which has taken nearly seven years to build and cost taxpayers and ratepayers £30m. Heathrow will become the first big international airport directly linked into the Underground system of a great capital city.

The only things not expected to be ready are the escalators, because of a strike by lift and escalator engineers. Passengers will have to climb up or down 40 steps.

Mr Michael Robbins, managing director of railways at London Transport, said yesterday that it had been decided that there would be less public disappointment if the station was opened without escalators than if the opening was postponed. "The Queen knows about it, and will take it in her stride."

London Transport's beautiful new station is not typical for one of the Queen's rare excursions into the Underground system. There are no graffiti yet on the bright yellow and orange paint. The telephones are working, and the telephone directories have not been stolen or defaced.

There are no advertisements for underwear beside the stationary escalators. Heathrow Central is as bright as a new pin, the most modern computerized and automated such gateway to internal railways in the world.

It is connected by wide moving walkways to the three airport terminal buildings. Everything is well waymarked with internationally recognized symbols. There is a travel information centre manned by London Transport, British Rail, and the London Tourist Board.

A computer-controlled journey planner will project push-button route information on a screen in three languages, at least until it becomes the favourite toy of small boys and goes mad.

Train movements in and out of the station will be controlled by computer. An electrical substation has been built on the platform behind smoked glass, and closed-circuit television has been installed in the operations room. Cameras are linked to the line controller's office at Earls Court, giving a view of the platforms at Heathrow.

Mercifully there are a number of seats in the ticket hall, where automatic ticket machines dispense tickets up to £1. There is a sterling exchange to enable foreign visitors to get enough money to feed the machines. Everything is tastefully decorated with symbols of tailplanes and aircraft.

There is what is described as a "kiss-and-ride" bay, where motorists can set down or pick up Underground passengers. There are automatic doors and other wonders undreamt of on the travelworn trail of the Central Line. Specially designed trains with extra space for luggage are being introduced

From Friday week a journey by Underground from Heathrow to Piccadilly Circus will cost £1.05. London Transport estimates that it will take 40 minutes.

In brief

£100 more for drug find man

Mr Russell Davis, a British Airways employee, of Egham, Surrey, who received a £5 reward after finding about £500,000 of heroin, received a personal letter of thanks and £100 yesterday from the Board of Customs and Excise.

Customs officers at Heathrow had written to their head office suggesting that Mr Davis should get more.

Holidays in China

Thomson Holidays has been given the permission by the Chinese Government to carry 900 people on package tours to Peking and Shanghai from January to May next year. The 12-night holidays will cost from £575.

Ten held at airport

Ten men were detained by detectives at Heathrow airport, London, yesterday in connexion with inquiries into the theft of liquor and other goods from the bar of a British Airways aircraft.

£2m improvements

More than 60 sites in Glasgow are to be landscaped or made into sports pitches, playgrounds, walkways and car parks at a cost of £2m. The area was criticized recently b ya Duke of Edinburgh study group.

Correction

The Society of West End Theatre Award for actor of the year in a revival was Ian McKellen, for his performance in *Pillars of the Community*, not Derek Jacobi (*Hamlet*) as stated yesterday.

Students' funds not to aid outside causes

From Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
Blackpool

Students' union funds must not be used to support essentially non-student causes such as union strikes, the National Union of Students decided yesterday. Contributions to such causes should come only from the students' own pockets or specific fund-raising activities.

The decision to adopt the policy, proposed in an emergency motion by the NUS executive, was taken by a narrow vote after one of the most heated debates of the union's four-day national conference, in Blackpool, which ended yesterday.

Opponents of the motion argued that restriction on spending attacked the autonomy of individual student unions. They should be able to support whatever cause they liked, including non-student events such as transport to help the Grunwick pickets or contributions to the firemen's strike. Unions should not have to account for their expenditure to outside bodies.

The national executive, however, argued that the financing structure must be publicly accountable. It fears that the Government, which is reviewing students' union financing, may impose restrictions unless unions put their houses in order first.

The NUS has received legal advice which shows that payments for purposes not related to the education, social activities, recreation or representation of students are outside the unions' power as defined by their constitutions and their charitable status.

In a background report to the conference the national executive points out that ultra vires payments endanger charitable status and with it such fiscal advantages as exemption from corporation tax on the interest from deposit accounts. Most students' unions are charities.

Any student who felt that funds were being improperly used could apply for an injunction in the courts, either to prevent payment or to obtain compensation for union funds if they had been made, the report says.

The individual union's principal officers would personally be liable to repay the funds, it adds.

An outside body, such as the local education authority, which pays the union's fees for most students, or the college authorities, may also be able to challenge union payments, the report says.

The union has asked counsel for legal advice on the whole issue. It hopes to send guidelines to students before the end of the year.

Mr Peter Ashby, deputy president of the union, said it would have been committing political suicide if it had not recognized the need to stop ultra vires payments.

The conference decided yesterday to call a national day of action tomorrow in support of the Fire Brigades' Union. In keeping with its new moderate line it rejected an emergency motion condemning the "racist state of Israel" and supporting the Palestinian cause, and voted instead for a motion recognizing the equal rights of Palestinians and Jews to national determination.

'Loyalist' council broke law

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Magherafelt, a "loyalist"-controlled council, in co Londonderry was found guilty in the High Court in Belfast yesterday of discrimination for refusing to allow two young Gaelic footballers to take part in a government-aided coaching teach last summer.

The case marked a legal milestone in the continuing attempts to outlaw discrimination in Ulster. It was the first to be brought under Section 19 of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act, introduced in 1973. Mr Justice Murray gave a reserved judgment.

The case arose after the local government elections in the province. A loyalist majority took control of Magherafelt council and decided in July to delete Gaelic football from the list of grant-aided sports for young people Swimming, association football and rugby were not affected.

Two teenage brothers, Kieran and Patrick Purvis, took the case to court. They received a declaration yesterday that the council's decision was discrimination on the ground of religious belief or political opinion.

The judge maintained that the fact that one group wished to have coaching in Association football, and another in Gaelic football was no more relevant, for example, than the fact that one contained more blue-eyed people than the other.

He rejected the defence submission that by allowing the Gaelic Athletic Association into its summer scheme the council would be giving aid and support to the association, a sort of government grant.

Under its present membership rules, he said, the GAA included a provision that was clearly discriminatory. He quoted a section of rule 15 which states: "British soldiers, Navy men and policemen should not be eligible for membership of the association."

He described the rule as having a distinctly unpleasant sting in its tail, because it also stated that any member participating in a Servicemen's or police dance would be suspended from the GAA for at least three months.

If the council coaching scheme had directly aided the GAA, and if the council had proposed handing money over directly to run it, then, because of rule 15, the defences point would have looked quite formidable, he said.

After the hearing, the Rev William McCrea, chairman of the council and a member of the Democratic Unionist Party, said the council's decision had been vindicated and the judgment showed that the Government was breaching the discrimination law in other respects by financing the GAA.

Alarm at growing number of homeless girls

By Penny Symon

The growing number of homeless young girls in Britain, some of them only 15, are alarming voluntary agencies trying to provide shelter for them. In London alone about two thousand girls will be homeless over Christmas.

Crisis at Christmas, the charity started 10 years ago to try to relieve some of the poverty and despair of single homeless people, particularly over the Christmas period, says in a report published yesterday that even in the recent past it had been assumed that young girls rarely became homeless. Surveys of 10 and 20 years ago showed a small, but neglected, population of older female "dossers". Although it was impossible to count them, it was estimated that there were no more than one or two thousand women, most of them of middle or advanced age.

Presenting the report, Mr Nicholas Scott, Conservative MP for Chelsea and chairman of the trustees, said there had been a dramatic change and now young girls had become homeless in numbers large enough to cause deep concern among social and voluntary agencies.

The reasons for homelessness were many, but the break-up of a family was largely responsible as were the high unemployment rates among the young, which caused serious difficulties for young girls.

Accommodation was hard to get, so girls who had either left their homes or had been pushed out, tended to live in temporary hostels, "squats", sleep rough, or become prostitutes.

It would be wrong to assume, the report says, that most of the homeless girls had arrived in London from the provinces. "While a number of them do come from outside the capital, there is good evidence to support the growing awareness that many of them in London are from the capital itself." As well as London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool have serious difficulties over young, homeless girls.

Mr Scott was speaking at a hostel for homeless girls in Camberwell, south London. Mr Adrian Speller, coordinator of the St Giles Centre, which runs the hostel, estimated that there were now about 100,000 single homeless people in Britain and two thousand girls would be homeless in London over Christmas.

"The single homeless are at the bottom of the pile when it comes to government aid," he added, "and we are disappointed that the Government does not provide more money to help us to provide more accommodation."

Last year Crisis at Christmas raised about £37,000 and more than 14,000 meals were served at a redundant church in Lambeth. It is repeating the exercise this year, and needs clothing, blankets, food and volunteers.

All You Need Is . . . .? (Crisis at Christmas, St Vincent's, 85 Carlisle Place, London, SW1, 30p).

Jubilee symphony will be performed unfinished

By Martin Huckerby
Music Reporter

The new symphony by Malcolm Williamson, the Australian composer, and Master of the Queen's Music, has not been completed in time for its premiere at the Festival Hall before the Queen on Thursday, and only three of the four movements will be performed at the concert.

Mr Williamson explained yesterday that although he had planned his Symphony No 4 as an 18-minute work, it had grown under his hands until it had become "an enormous work" lasting more than half an hour.

He has been staying in the Camargue, working with little sleep to complete the work, but the orchestration of the first movement has not been finished.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra will see the score for the first time today and rehearse the work under Bernard Haitink each day until the concert.

Similar difficulties affected the premier of Williamson's *Mass of Christ the King*, which had to be performed incomplete earlier this year.

The symphony, dedicated to the Queen, was commissioned for the jubilee. It is a highly complicated work: the strings, for instance, are divided into 14 parts instead of the usual five.

Farmers state case over 'dangerously low' prices

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Farmers' leaders said yesterday that the Government's latest attempt to shield the beef industry from dangerously low prices was inadequate. They said also that ministers had failed to safeguard the pig trade against cut-price competition that threatened the livelihood of British producers.

They were speaking at the start of two days of talks at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the beginning of their negotiations for the 1978 farm price review. Their team was led by Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, and Mr Richard Butler, the deputy president.

The Government has tried to stabilize the cattle market by ending its ban on sales of medium steers into EEC intervention stores. That will increase the potential for a British beef "mountain".

The farming unions insisted yesterday that the move merely avoided the central difficulty of farm prices depressed by the Government' use of the "green pound", with which EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling. Their case was strengthened by publication of a report from Exeter University which showed that the proceeds of dairy farming in south-west England were lower than 10 years ago.

WEST EUROPE

Fears grow among European Nato group over American plans for arms limitation pact

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 5

Mr Harold Brown, the United States Defence Secretary, will have to allay serious fears among the European Nato allies about American proposals for the next strategic arms limitation (Salt) agreement when he addresses the alliance's defence planning committee here tomorrow.

This became clear after today's meeting of Nato's Eurogroup, at which countries, particularly Britain and West Germany, expressed concern about some of the implications.

The focal point for this concern are the range limitations which seem likely to be imposed in a Salt-2 treaty upon the long-range Cruise missile.

Mr Paul Warnke, the chief American Salt negotiator, disclosed these proposals to a meeting of Nato's permanent representative in Brussels last week. If codifed in Salt-2, they would limit the range of air-launched Cruise missiles to 1,560 miles and, more significantly, would keep the sea-launched and ground-launched ones to only 375 miles.

Britain has still not made up its mind about whether it wants to invest in long-range Cruise missiles anyway. It has a strong interest in keeping open the options, one of which might be a submarine-launched Cruise missile force to succeed Polaris as the country's strategic deterrent. But a 375-mile range would not be far enough for this.

Meanwhile, the Germans have an interest in a ground-launched system which could respond to the threat from the Soviet SS 20 missile system or the Backfire bomber. For these reasons they, too, are expected to put their views forcibly to Mr Brown tomorrow or on Wednesday.

Official sources were at pains to play down the extent of European feeling after today's meeting. The Eurogroup chairman, Mr Poul Sogoard, Denmark's Defence Minister, refused to comment when questioned at an official press conference.

Sources said the discussion among Europe's defence ministers ranged over the nuetron bomb and the transfer of technology between the United States and Europe. They emphasized that what took place was only an exchange of views and was in no way an attempt to reach a consencus.

But one Nto observer described the exchange of views as one of the most far-reaching for many years. Although other countries, like Britain, still have to make up their minds about the range of weapon systems now under development, they would like to have the options kept open for three more years so they can at least complete their studies.

It is generally assumed that Britain for one could develop a cruise missile of its own without American help. But United States' technological aid would speed the process and result in a more accurate weapon.

Moreover, Britain could not seriously consider developing a system which breached a Salt agreement, even if it was not a direct party to the terms.

There was also some impatience at today's meeting with the slow progress made by the European Programme Group which was started two years ago with the object of helping to sell European equipment to the two North American allies.

The group, which includes France, has succeeded in working out four main arease where Europe could supply more arms. These include tank ammunition, tactical combat aircraft for the 1980s, minehunters and anti-tank weapons.

Moreover, a dialogue has now started with the Americans through the Nato conference of national armaments directors. But some members would like to see both sides get a move on.

Gaullists put forward policy guidelines

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 5

The anniversary of the launching a year ago by M Jacques Chirac of the Gaullist *Rassemblement pour las République* (RPR) at a rally in Paris, coincides with the publication this morning of its "objectives for France", the movement's policy guidelines for the next five or 10 years.

After a period of doubt and difficulties the Gaullist movement is raising its head and asserting its personality and presence. An opinion poll in the weekly news magazine *Le Point* shows that it is consolidating its position among people voting for the Government coalition.

M Jerome Monod, the Secretary-General of the RPR, went out of his way to emphasize, at a press conference this morning, that these Gaullist objectives were put forward in a spirit of loyalty to the Government majority. There was no contradiction whatever between them and the Government's objectives which were soon to be published.

"They emphasize the originality of the Gaullist movement in accordance with the pluralism recommended by President Giscard d'Estaing last January."

M Monod said the essential question was whether it would be possible to preserve in coming years the achievements of the Fifth Republic.

The Gaullist propositions call for a restoration of the authority of the state, along with the strengthening of democratic control through greater participation of workers in industry, and of citizens in local affairs. They also emphasize the right to work and propose fighting unemployment through a policy of growth and reflation, greater freedom for industrial enterprises, reasonable taxation and protection for French agriculture. Other objectives include the defence of French independence through a sustained defence effort and the construction of a European Europe.

The Gaullist movement will produce in January more detailed proposals on economic policy if the present coalition is returned to power in the March elections and the Gaullists are confirmed as its strongest element.

M Monod said the party was the leading political movement in France. Its membership had doubled to nearly 550,000 and it had set a target of more than 600,000 for next March. Its leadership had also been renewed and rejuvenated.

"The Gaullist Party reckons that it represents 25 per cent of the electorate," he said. In coming months, it would concentrate its efforts on women, young people and the workers by expanding its cells in industrial firms from the present 600 to 1,500 by March.

King Juan Carlos receives Communist leader

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec 5

King Juan Carlos received Senor Santiago Carrillo, the Communist leader, today in the Zarzuela Palace. The audience had apparently been requested by Senor Carrildo some tice ago and it was the first time that a Spanish head of state had received a Communist leader sinct before the civil war.

The meeting was in line with other audiences which the King had accorded to political leaders. The fact that Senior Carrildo was the last to be received underlined the sensitivity which still exists in the military hierarchy over the legalization of the Communist Party.

Senor Oarrildo has publicly declared support for the king on many occasions, although his party continues to favour a republic. The audience can be expected to enhance the position of Senor Carrillo, who has went over backwards since his party was legalized dast April to show his democratic principles.

It was learnt today that the King met the Archbishop of Madrid, Cardinal Enrique y Tarancon, last week to discuss the position of the Roman Catholic Church. The cardinal had complained bitterly that the ney Spanish constitution proposed to declare the country a non-confessional state.

Left-wing political parties and trade unions in Andalucia called a strike for tomorrow to protest at the killing of a youth during a demonstration in Malaga yesterday in favour of autonomy.

Senor Manuel Jose Caparros, aged 19, died when the police opened fire on a group of demonstrators who, according to an official statement, "cornered a platoon of police who with their riot equipment used up found it necessary to use their firearms".

The youth was a member of the Communist trade union organization, the Workers' Commissions. Another person was shot in the arm and 22 policemen were injured.

Altogether more than a million people took part in demonstrations throughout Andalucia yesterday demanding autonomy. In Galicia, in demonstrations. While negotiations are going ahead for Bas- people took part in similar the north-west, about 500,000 que autonomy and the Catain autonomous Government, the Generalitat, has been reestablished, Galicia and Andalucia are way behind.

Senor Josep Tarradellas, the President of the Generalitat, was due to announce the composition of his governmnt later today based on the results of the general election in Catalonia where the Socialists and Communists won most of the seats.

Malaga, Dec 5.—Senor Francisco Cabez-Lopez, the president of the Malaga Provincial Assembly, resigned today in connexion with the shooting.

Hundreds of wreaths wrapped zith black ribbons were placed during the night at the scene where Senor Garcia Caparros was shot.—AP.

Talks on nuclear test ban resume

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Dec 5

After a month of assessment in their capitals, delegations from the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain today resumed negotiarions for a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests.

Dr Paul Warnke, the chief Unired States delegate, said that he hoped for substantial progress not only on a test ban butalso in the strategic arms limitation talks (Salt) and in the further round of United States-Soviet negotiations on arms limitation in the Indian Ocean, opening tomorrow in Berne.

With Soviet acceptance last month of the inclusion of peaceful nuclear explosions in any prohibition—at least in moratorium form—a test-ban treaty is believed to be within reach.

One of the main issues remaining is setting the initial duration of atreaty.

Rightists shoot Communist

Rome, Dec 5.—Rightist terrorists shot and seriously wounded a Communist youth during a raid on Rignano Elaminio, north of Rome, the police said today.

Three men armed with clubs, chains and a shotgun last night attacked two local leftists, then seized the gun of a policeman ho intervened and fired at a bar, wounding the youth.—Reuter.

Italian airline strike

Rome, Dec 5.—The Italian airline Alitalia cancelled 38 international and 13 domestic flights today because of a 12-hour strike by cabin staff.

Book 'explodes Sherlock Holmes myth'

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Dec 5

After 4 years of research, Dr Henri Mutrux, a criminologist and former Lausanne police chief, has produced a book designed "to explode the Sherlock Holmes myth".

Dr Mutrux, who now lives at Sion, claims in the book that Holmes's creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, drew his inspiration freely fro mthe works of other authors, including Edgar Allen Poe, Emile Gaboriau and Victor Hugo, as well as having recaurse to the memories of general senior police officials.

The book is published in French, and the title can be translated as *Sherlock Holmes, King of the Tricksters.*

Baader-Meinhof survivor on hunger strike

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Dec 5

Irmgard Möller, the terrorist who survived the apparent suicide pact in Stammheim jail on October 18 has been on a hunger strike for two weeks, the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Justice disclosed today.

Her lawyers say that she is demanding to be put in a cell with or near a comrade, Verena Becker, who is on trial on six charges of attempted murder.

Two prison doctors certified that Frau Möller was unfit to give evidence today to a parliamentary committee investigating the suicides of the other three members of the Baader-Meinhof gang, Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe.

Lip workers form company and make five-year plan

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 5

After 19 months of occupation of their factory at Besançon, the workers at the bankrupt Lip watch factory have formed a new company with an initial capital of 1m francs (£114,000) divided in shares among the 485 workers.

The new company, in the form of a workers' cooperative, was registered last week. Over the weekend the public were invited to the factory to hear about the way it would be run.

There is a five-year programme mapped out, begining with taking in clocks and machine tools for maintenance. Later the cooperative plans subcontracting work and, still later, to manufacture its own products.

Parallel to the new company an "association of friends of Lip" has been formed to help to organize support and finance for the project, beginning with the distribution throughout France of half a million copies of a paper explaining the Lip predicament.

According to M Jean Raguenes, a union leader at the plant, the workforce decided to form the company because it was now apparent that the public authorities would no nothing to restart

In July the bankruptcy order on the Lip company was confirmed. There have been several skirmishes since then between the workers and the police, as well as attempts to cut off the gas and electricity supplies to the plant.

French broadcasting monopoly ruled illegal

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 5

The state broadcasting monopoly has been successfully challenged in the courts. Although the legal process still has a long way to run, a pirate radio station in Montpellier has won the first round in a fight aimed at changing the established system of state-run radio and television.

The pirate radio involved is in no way like the dozens of clandestine little stations which have sprung up all over France recently. It was a proper organisation in its own right, installed in a tower block in the new area of Montpellier.

Two of its main directors are a former radio journalist and a lawyer, M François Chassaing, and M François Delmas, the city's former mayor, who is a member of the central committee of the Republican Party and also a lawyer. They helped to set up the station deliberately to force the broadcasting authority, Télédiffusion de France (TDF), into the courts.

Radio Fil Bleu, as it was called, went on the air at 7.30 am to July 12, with a programme of local news and American pop music. It had £5,700-worth of equipment enabling it to broadcast over a 12-mile radius. Advance publicity had ensured that everyone, including the TDF, knew when it was on the air and where it was broadcasting from.

Within half an hour the TDF jammed the station, and the same thing happened on the following two days. On July 24 the equipment was confiscated and legal proceedings begun under laws passed in 1972 and 1974 confirming the state monopoly.

The directors could, under the law, have been sent to prison for up to a month and been fined anything up to £4,100. Instead the court ruled on Thursday, that there was no case to answer, because according to the Constitution, "liberty of expression and liberty of information are two fundamental principles of French law ever since the Declaration of the Rights of Man." The monopoly was, therefore, contrary to these fundamental liberties.

The court also accepted the argument of the defence that France was bound by the European Convention on Human Rights which it had signed 25 years ago. This stated that one right was "the liberty to receive or to communicate information or ideas without any interference by public authorities."

Article 55 of the French Constitution, the judge said, gave international law, like the Convention, precedence over French law, and therefore the Article under which the case had been brought were void.

The ruling has been made the subject of an immediate appeal. Should the pirate radio win that, then the case would go on to the Cour de Cassation which has the power to annul a judgment, thus causing a retrial.

The attack on the state monopoly by a consortium led by a senior member of President Giscard d'Estaing's own party has won support right across the political spectrum. The Gaullists are apparently in favour of a more liberal use of the air waves, although they would insist on technical controls to protect airspace.

The Republicans are in favour of liberalization, the Centrists feel the monopoly has served its time, the Socialists would like to see the growth of local community radio and the Communists have long been critical of the broadcasting monopoly.

One of the first reforms carried out by the President when he was elected three years ago was the break-up of the former state broadcasting organization into five autonomous branches consisting of the three television channels, the radio service and the TDF, which produces programmes for them.

The idea at the time was that the new system would make the different services more competitive without weakening the principle of government monopoly. In the event, as the debate on the broadcasting budget in the National Assembly last month showed, all parties are, for different reasons, highly critical of the way the system is being run.

The former mayor of Montpellier and his lawyer colleagues now find themselves the toast of the extreme leftist groups which have been broadcasting in many areas intermittently throughout this year. The success of the ecological candidates in the local elections of last March seem the main inspiration of these stations and Radio Vert transmissions with makeshift equipment have been a regular event on Saturday nights.

There is at least one radio station operating in Paris, on Montmartre, with a range of about a quarter of a mile. Universities have been quick to start their own little stations—the one in Lille has transmitted its congratulations to Montpellier—and there has been a growing trade in broadcast sets which sell for about £60.

M Jean Autin, the president of TDF, said at the weekend that if the state monopoly were broken there would be a danger of France following the Italian example, where there are something like 2,000 pirate stations.

"The monopoly, for me, is still in the best interests of the entire population", he said. "It guarantees objectivity. I will fight against all those who want to disturb the monopoly."

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OVERSEAS

Seven blocks of territory form the second independent homeland with that made-in-Pretoria look

From Nicholas Ashford
Mmabatho, Dec 5

As midnight struck on the clock tower in Mafeking, South Africa tonight launched its second tribal homeland, Bophuthatswana, as an independent state to the accompaniment of a 101-gun salute.

In so doing, South Africa surrendered sovereignty over seven separate pieces of land whose total surface area is the size of Switzerland and with a population of 2,500,000 Tswana-speaking people.

The birth of the new nation—which will go unrecognized by the world at large as did the independence of Transkei a year ago—took place in a hastily-erected stadium made of steel scaffolding situated on the outer fringes of the Kalahari Desert. The independence stadium is the largest edifice in the nation's new capital, called Mmabatho, just outside Mafeking.

Six months ago Mmabatho was virgin bush. Now, in addition to the stadium there is a new maroon and yellow parliament building, a cluster of new houses for the President, Chief Lucas Mangope, and his ministers, a new luxury hotel-cum-casino and a garage offering "farm fresh petrol". And that is all apart from a sea of grey brown tents, looking like a poor man's Persepolis, which provide temporary accommodation for the 18,000 Tswanas attending the five-day independence celebrations.

The whole event was reminiscent of Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*.

A presidential salute fired by South African field guns earlier in the day caused cows grazing in the fields around the parliament building to bolt in panic. The Tswana official in charge of the press seemed to take delight in telling journalists that they would not be allowed to attend most of the independence functions and refused to release names of invited guests for "security reasons".

The programme of the independence celebrations was almost exactly the same as was followed in Transkei. During the day there was a football match in the stadium followed by traditional dances and a gymnast display.

Shortly before midnight, Chief Mangope and Dr Diederichs, the South African President, arrived for the formal transfer of power. The South African tricolour was lowered and replaced by the Bophuthatswana flag, a red diagonal stripe on a blue ground with a leopard's head in the top corner. Members of the new Bophuthatswana national guard and the South African presidential guard presented arms, national anthems were played, guns boomed and an independence flame was kindled.

In his address, Chief Mangope was strongly critical of South Africa's race policies and described the fragmentation of Bophuthatswana into seven separate pieces as a "territorial credibility gap".

Independence, he said, meant that "we are no longer helplessly at the mercy of the arbitrary arrogance of those who, until this hour, trampled our human dignity into the dust". However, he urged Tswanas "not to inflict on whites what we have been blaming them for inflicting on us".

On the issue of Bophuthatswana's fragmented land area, he said that "wicked non-consolidation has dealt a cruel and deadly blow to our independence. Just as it is born, our independence has already fallen into a fatal credibility gap—the territorial credibility gap, which bears the stamp 'Made in Pretoria'."

Chief Mangope also attacked the Bantu education system, called for correct relations with "our former colonial master" and suggested that Bophuthatswana's independence could be a stepping stone to a federation embracing all of South Africa.

Among those present to hear Chief Mangope's independence address were Chief Kaizer Matanzima, the Transkei Prime Minister, and the chief ministers of the Ciskei and Venda homelands, Chief Lennox Sebe and Chief Patrick Mphephu. Ciskei and Venda are expected to be the next homelands to become independent.

Like Transkei, the world regards Bophuthatswana as a "child of apartheid" and for that reason it is unlikely to receive any form of international recognition for years to come.

For a start, it has no seaboard of its own. Its seven pieces are entirely surrounded by South Africa except for one area which borders Botswana. All its trade and communications have to pass through the white republic.

At present over half the population lives permanently outside Bophuthatswana's borders and few have shown much interest in settling there.

On the question of citizenship, Chief Mangope seems to have negotiated a slightly better deal than did Chief Matanzima in Transkei although the matter is still somewhat ambiguous. Tswana citizens will, for instance, retain residential and business rights in urban areas in South Africa, but, as happened to the Xhosa-speakers when Transkei became independent, the Tswanas will find themselves automatically deprived of their South African citizenship and becoming Bophuthatswana citizens instead, whether they wish to or not.


Men of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers sort out their kit after arriving in Bermuda.

Troops arrive in Bermuda with their own philosophy

A soldier finds himself far flung in the remnants of the Empire

From Michael Leapman
Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec 5

No matter how many obituaries are written on Britain's imperial role, there are bits of it that refuse to go away. There is always some part of the globe that calls for the presence of British armed might at a moment's notice to douse a niggling bit of civil disorder.

Whether it is Aden, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Anguilla or, as in this case, Bermuda, the chaps bring with them a refreshingly simple philosophy, enunciated yesterday by Major John Varley, of The Royal Regiment of Wales, soon after he and his men stepped from their aircraft. He said he had heard the rioters and arsonists in Bermuda were rather young.

"A little more show of a disciplined body of men will be rather like having their parents start to discipline them", he declared.

Major Varley's 80 men, many themselves still in their teens, were the first to arrive last night. They had come from Belize where, for the moment, there is a slow season for peace-keeping. The other 180 men, from The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, came in two aircraft from RAF, Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, a few hours later.

It was a deeply impressive arrival, even if the sense of colonial grandeur was diminished by British troops having to fly into an American naval air base, the only suitable military facility on the island. The chubby and cheerful base information officer, called with little warning from a relaxing day by the pool, fussed about in his Bermuda shorts, organizing emergency urns of coffee and Kool Aid, a soft drink, for his Nato allies.

For Commander David Aldrich, a naval officer who is the senior British serviceman in Bermuda, it was also a rare weekend stint. Usually, with only 10 men under his command, he can count on untroubled duty hours.

But this was an emergency as was indicated by the purposive way in which the fusiliers trotted smartly off the aircraft into the balmy night, setting their faces that little more firmly when they came within range of the television cameras. They looked like a football team coming on to the field for a cup tie, except that they wore camouflaged battle-dress and black berets with red and white plumes they call hackles, earned by defeating the French at St Lucia in 1778.

All this intrigued the American correspondents who are reporting this skirmish in as large numbers as the British. Most of all they took to Lieutenant-Colonel David Betley, commander of the fusiliers, whom they saw as an archetypal British officer from the best kind of war films.

Indeed, with his lean, spare appearance, his clipped accent and, most of all, his neat military moustache, it might be suspected that he was chosen for this mission as much for his bearing as for his undoubted military skills.

Although not fully briefed on the role of his men, he said he assumed, on the basis of his experience in Northern Ireland (seven tours) and other trouble spots, that this was another "sort of meet-force with-force situation". The troops would take their cue from local police and politicians and use only the level of force the situation demanded. He exuded confidence, competence and calm.

While the commander went off for high-level talks, his men climbed into pink school buses and headed for Warwick Camp, where most of them will be billeted. The Bermuda Regiment, who are normally there, have been moved into a hotel, which was closed to tourists on Friday after a fatal fire.

The British forces have brought with them all they need, from their own Land-Rovers and rubber bullets to a public relations man flown out specially from the Defence Ministry. It will be something of a let down if they are required to do nothing but sit on the beach, deterring further disturbances by their mere presence. Last night's lack of serious incidents suggests this could happen.

Ideally, while no one was unmilitary enough to admit it, a stay of about a fortnight would be most convenient. This would get the men home in time for Christmas, but would mean they missed a stint of London firefighting due to start on December 20.

For a soldier, even for a soldier of a declining imperial power, life is full of surprises.

Leading article, page 15

West Bank mayors criticize Mr Sadat

From Edward Mortimer
Ramallah, Dec 5

A memorandum criticizing President Sadat's visit to Israel and expressing full support for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has been distributed to all foreign consulates in Jerusalem in the past few days. It is signed by 18 mayors and two deputy mayors of towns in the occupied West Bank and some dozens of "notables" and associations.

Of the mayors of the main towns in the West Bank only Mr Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, has not signed the memorandum though his deputy has.

The mayors, who have been frequently mentioned in recent months as possible representatives of the Palestinians at the Geneva peace conference, insist in the memorandum that they will not go there as substitutes for the PLO, and declare themselves "against any voice or anybody who is planning to find a new leadership to replace the PLO".

Mr Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah and one of the main organizers of the memorandum, told me today that he personally would not go to Geneva even if the PLO asked him to. "I am not the representative of the PLO. The PLO is our representative" he said.

Mr Khalaf also accused President Sadat of "playing a game with the United States against the PLO by creating a new leadership to replace it".

But some other signatories of the memorandum take a more cautious view. For instance, Mr Fahad Qawasmeh, the mayor of Hebron, told me he thought Mr Sadat simply "forgot" to mention the PLO in his speech to the Knesset.

Mr Qawasmeh gave several reasons for opposing President Sadat's visit, but went on to admit that it had also brought some benefits: "No one can say in the future that the Arabs do not want peace" he said. Nothing more could now be asked of the Arabs, and therefore President Carter would more power to put pressure on Israel.

It was natural, Mr Qawasmeh added, that Syria and the PLO should "refuse" the visit, "but they won't refuse the result if he can get a good result".

He even thought that the criticisms from other Arab states could help Mr Sadat to get results, by putting extra pressure on the Americans and Israelis to show that the visit was a success. "If Sadat can succeed, all of us will be with him".

In that at least, almost everyone on the West Bank would agree. While Mr Khalaf claims that 98 per cent of the population support the PLO, a more neutral observer suggests that 80 per cent of them support President Sadat.

Mr Khalaf's claim is certainly exaggerated. The PLO's popularity has declined from the peak it reached a year or two ago, partly because it has failed to achieve any concrete results and partly because its leadership seems unable to decide on a clear political line. People criticize, for instance, the fact that Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, at first appeared to support President Sadat's initiative but later condemned it.

The great and unanimous desire on the West Bank is to be rid of the Israeli occupation. All of them would desperately like to see Mr Sadat succeed in achieving the kind of peace he described in his speech to the Knesset, with full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and recognition of the Palestinians' right to an independent state.

But support for Mr Sadat is clearly conditional on his achieving something for the Palestinians; if he fails to obtain Israeli withdrawal, or settles for a separate Egyptian peace, there will be bitter disillusionment. And support for him is not yet incompatible with support for the PLO.

In fact, most people in the area would like to see the PLO and Mr Sadat reconciled, and many are apprehensive that the PLO is getting pushed into an extreme position and is in danger of excluding itself from any settlement that is reached.

Mr Qawasmeh, for instance, says that accusations against Mr Sadat serve no purpose. "We should go back to Arab unity". Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, he thinks, should take the initiative in calling a new summit to avoid the division of the Arab world.

"If I were President Assad or the PLO, I should ask for this conference, because if we divide the Arab world we lose everything. . . . There can be no peace without Egypt and also no war without Egypt."

Begin pledge to fight for Soviet Jews

By Robert Parker

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, last night said that until every Jew who wanted to leave Russia was allowed to do so, there would be no let-up in the worldwide campaign to free them.

Mr Begin addressed his statement "to the rulers of the Kremlin" while speaking at a synagogue in St John's Wood, London, to about 2,500 people.

Mr Begin, who went to the synagogue amid stringent security precautions, was on the first day of the unofficial part of his visit to Britain. His official visit ended on Sunday night.

During the service, he was introduced to several Jews who have recently left the Soviet Union. He said he felt a new era of Jewish history was dawning, and foresaw the time when every Jew and his children and children's children could live unpersecuted and in peace.

Mr Begin lit the second of the eight *Chanukah* candles, Chanukah being the eight-day festival celebrating the recapture of the Holy City and its Temple more than 2,000 years ago.

The lighting of the second candle marks the beginning of a week of campaigning to bring pressure on Moscow.

Earlier in the day Mr Begin met leaders of the Jewish community from all over Britain. He was told by Lord Fisher, the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the National Council for Soviet Jewry, that there was full support and enthusiasm for his peace initiative in the Middle East.

Mr Begin also had tea with Mr George Thomas, the Speaker of the House of Commons. It was a private meeting.

Today, Mr Begin will be meeting MPs who are sympathetic to Israel, and later on will see Mr William Whitelaw, the deputy Opposition leader. He will be leaving Britain tomorrow.

Arrest move fails: An attempt by the National Front to have Mr Begin arrested for the murder of two British soldiers in Palestine in 1947 failed yesterday.

An application for a warrant for his arrest was turned down by a magistrate sitting in chambers in Bristol. But Mr James Sawyer, a National Front member who sought the application, said that he would not be giving up. He would seek legal advice about his next move.

Reception criticized: An Israeli newspaper has sharply criticized the official reception extended to Mr Begin on his arrival in Britain on Friday, saying it bordered on the vulgar.

Our Tel Aviv Correspondent writes: A Foreign Ministry source in Jerusalem said today Israeli delegates to the Cairo talks will not be empowered to negotiate precise peace borders or military issues but only to establish the nature of an overall peace settlement. The delegation will not include a military man.

S African church 'persecuted'

Johannesburg, Dec 5.—The Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, Dr Timothy Bavin, today accused the South African Government of persecuting the Church.

The Bishop made the accusation in a statement on the arrest last week of two Anglican priests, the Rev Geoffrey Moseland and the Rev Stephen Montjane.

The arrests followed the announcement on Friday of an inquest verdict clearing the South African security police of blame for the death in prison of Steve Biko, the black activist.

In his statement, the Bishop referred to the Government's landslide victory in the general election on November 30. He said: "It is hard not to react with anger, hatred, bitterness and despair when the first action of a newly-elected government is to persecute the Church of God.

"But the Christian may not give into these feelings and his prayer or concern will be not only for those who are being detained, together with their families, but also for the souls of those who wield power without respect for God and regard for common human decency."—Reuter.

Ten die in attacks by Rhodesia guerrillas

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Dec 5

A white farmer has been murdered by guerrillas in the Cashel district of Eastern Rhodesia. He was Mr Johannes van Maarseveen, a 40-year-old father of three.

His death brings to 115 the number of white civilians killed by guerrillas during the five-year civil war. More than 1,200 black civilians have died in the same period.

Combined operations headquarters also announced that nine blacks, including a headman, his two wives and his daughter, had been murdered by guerrillas who entered south-western Rhodesia from Botswana. Guerrillas also launched an attack on a farm in the Wedza district halfway between Salisbury and Umtali, but were driven off when the occupants opened fire on them.

A spokesman for Mr Joshua Nkomo, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, today denied reports here that moves were being made to persuade him to break with Mr Robert Mugabe, the other co-leader, and return to Salisbury to take part in the internal settlement negotiations, which are due to resume on Friday.

Mr Willie Musarurwa, the Nkomo faction publicity secretary, reiterated Mr Nkomo's determination to take Rhodesia by force.

Salisbury, Dec 5.—A black policeman who ran amuck in a black township of Bulawayo last night shot 13 people dead and wounded 16 others before being killed by his colleagues, a police spokesman said today. Five children were among the victims of the policeman, who was not immediately identified.

Our Defence Correspondent writes: Important changes in Rhodesian policy towards Africans will be required by the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, the Rhodesian nationalist leader, as a test of the sincerity of Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, in proposing adult suffrage.

"I don't know if he is sincere or not sincere. We are prepared to test him", Mr Sithole said at a news conference in London yesterday. "We can only do this by making the claims of the African people as frankly as possible."

Mr Sithole, who discussed his plans with Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, when they met on Sunday, was at the Foreign Office again yesterday and will see Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner-designate, tomorrow.

The test would be if Mr Smith lifted the ban on political parties, released political prisoners, improved conditions in the so-called protected villages, ended the ban on African literary works and granted an amnesty to exiles, Mr Sithole said.

Mr Sithole said he was not laying down conditions, but wanted to find out what Mr Smith had in mind by adult suffrage and safeguards for the white population. A veto of the minority over the majority was not acceptable, Mr Sithole added. The discussions must be in the framework of the Anglo-American proposals.

Dar es Salaam: The Patriotic Front today attacked as "bloodthirsty and Machiavellian" Dr Owen's remark that the recent Rhodesian raid into Mozambique might help achieve an overall settlement.

The criticism was carried by the official Tanzania news agency and referred to the Foreign Secretary's comment that the raid "might show the Patriotic Front, and this may have some advantages in getting overall compromise, that the Rhodesian defence force is simply not on its back."—Reuter.

New York: Mozambique has appealed in a letter to Dr Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, for urgent humanitarian aid for Rhodesian refugees affected by what it termed "murderous attacks" within Mozambique by Rhodesian forces.—Reuter.

MPs may vote on colonial death penalty

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

In the aftermath of the executions in Bermuda last week the House of Commons may be given the opportunity to decide whether colonial territories should still retain the death penalty when capital punishment has been abolished in Britain.

Dr Owen, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, indicated this to MPs yesterday when he replied to strong Labour backbench criticism of the failure to reprieve the two Bermudians executed in the island on Friday.

Dr Owen agreed that the present position left the British Government in a serious dilemma and that this might have to be considered by the House. There were other colonial territories besides Bermuda which might not reach independence for many years.

Any change in the present arrangements would require legislation, but he suggested that the House might consider the whole question of the death penalty in the colonial territories and whether it was right for it to be abolished in this country but not in the territories. This should be decided on a free vote of the House, he said.

From the Liberal benches, Mr Thorpe agreed that the criminal code and penalties inflicted in those territories should correspond with the views of the House. Dr Owen pointed out that in 1965 and 1970 the territories were asked whether in view of the decision of the Commons, they would wish to remove the death penalty. Several did so.

Dr Owen added that he was a convinced abolitionist but that having satisfied himself that there was no miscarriage of justice he had no alternative but to advise the Queen not to intervene in the executions last week.

He felt that the best way out of the dilemma would be for the dependent territories to reflect again on the decision taken in the Commons and to ask themselves whether they should not voluntarily change their legislation to bring it into line with the legislation in this country.

Shah begins a state visit to Oman

Muscat, Dec 5.—The Shah of Iran arrived here today on his first visit to Oman.

The Shah, who sent troops to help Oman suppress a left-wing rebellion in southern Dhofar province, was greeted by Sultan Qaboos bin Said at the start of a four-day state visit. Omani officials said formal talks between the two leaders were not likely to be held until Wednesday. Tomorrow they will visit Salalah, capital of Dhofar province.

Although the 10-year insurgency was officially proclaimed over about two years ago, Iran still maintains a fully staffed brigade headquarters in the province and could quickly send reinforcements.

With the Sultan's forces now firmly in control of the province, the Dhofar situation is not expected to figure prominently in talks between the two leaders. They are more likely to be concerned about the situation in the Horn of Africa.—Reuter.

Murderer is beheaded

Amman, Dec 5.—A Saudi Arabian was beheaded by the sword in the main square of Jiddah today after being convicted of killing six people, Riyadh radio reported.

Hassan Muhammad al Hassani shot six people dead last Friday, including his mother, and wounded five neighbours, the radio said.—Reuter.

Stones thrown at Frasers in election tour

Melbourne, Dec 5.—Mr Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, and his wife, were pelted with stones during an election rally here tonight.

Mr Fraser was also hit on the head by a big placard protesting against sales of uranium as he walked from the rally. It was the second time in three days that Mr Fraser had encountered violence in his election campaign.

On Saturday he and his wife were pelted with eggs and hit with placards in Sydney.—AP.

Lance bank asks for its shares to be suspended

From David Cross
Washington, Dec 5

The Federal banking authorities today ordered a temporary suspension of trading in the stock of the National Bank of Georgia, much of which is owned by Mr Bert Lance, the former Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The suspension, which was announced by Mr John Heimann, the Comptroller of the Currency, was in response to a request from the bank. There have been considerable fluctuations in the value of the stock in recent days after reports that Mr Lance, who left Washington under a cloud a few months ago, is negotiating to sell some 200,000 shares he owns.

According to *The New York Times*, Mr Lance is negotiating to sell his shares to a group of Middle East businessmen represented by a London-based Pakistani, who specializes in international bank purchases. However, the potential purchasers want to ensure that Mr Lance will once again become actively involved in running the bank.

This may prove impossible since the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington is considering a ban, albeit temporary, on Mr Lance's future banking activities. The commission is still investigating allegations that the former Budget Director, who is still a confidant of President Carter, misused overdrafts and a bank aircraft before he came to Washington.

Press hunger strikers arrested

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, Dec 5

Twenty-one Pakistani journalists and other newspaper employees were arrested early today at the Karachi Press Club where protesting journalists had been on hunger strike. Among those arrested was Mr Minhaj Barna, president of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and chairman of the All-Pakistan Newspaper Employees Confederation.

The journalists and other newspaper employees were protesting against the forced closure of *Musawat*, a Karachi Urdu daily owned by the family of Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister. The paper was closed on November 1. Nearly a month later the martial law regime agreed to allow it to be published under new management and with a nominated editor in the place of Mr Ibrahim Jalis, a well-known Urdu journalist who died of a stroke shortly after the paper's closure.

Two unions representing journalists and other press workers all over Pakistan decided to hold a hunger strike on Saturday when their efforts to ensure the employment of all *Musawat's* staff failed.

A first group of 11 journalists, including two women, and other newspaper employees began a 48-hour fast at Karachi Press Club on Saturday evening. But early this morning when they had completed about 32 hours police raided the club and rounded up all the hunger strikers, other than the two women, on charges of attempting to commit suicide. Twelve other people were arrested for demonstrating against the martial law regulations.

According to reports from Karachi this evening, a second group of six journalists had settled down at the club later to hold a 48-hour fast in accordance with their unions' decision to continue hunger strikes until their demands for the revival of the newspaper and the reemployment of all its employees were met.

Those arrested were reported to have refused to break their fast while in police custody. But they eventually did so when their colleagues arrived at the police station with fruit juices.

A statement by the journalists' union today said that their agitation was not intended to give political support to Mr Bhutto, who is in jail, and his family who happened to be the owners of *Musawat*.

So far there has been no indication from officials as to whether any efforts will be made to meet the journalists' demands.

World chess adjourned

Belgrade, Dec 5.—Boris Spassky, the former Soviet world champion, and Viktor Korchnoi, the expatriate Russian grandmaster, today adjourned after five hours' play the sixth game of their match to choose a challenger to Anatoly Karpov, the world champion.

Spassky, playing white, sealed his forty-first move. Play is due to resume tomorrow.

The two players appeared in even position after brilliant play.

Korchnoi leads 3½ points to 1½ in the 20-game contest.—UPI and Agence France-Presse.

Amin sons on Libyan trip

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Dec 5

President Amin of Uganda left Entebbe today for Libya at the invitation of Colonel Gaddafi. Uganda radio quoted President Amin as saying he would discuss the Middle East and cooperation between Uganda and Libya.

He was accompanied by ministers, Army officers, journalists and two of his sons, Moses and Mwanga.

The radio gave no indication of how long he planned to stay in Libya. Earlier he had sent a message to the Libyan leader appealing to the Arab states to create a united front of "progressive Arab forces".

OVERSEAS

Malaysians hunt clues to identities of death crash hijackers

Kuala Lumpur, Dec 5.—An official inquiry started today into last night's crash of a hijacked Malaysian airliner in which all 100 people on board were killed.

The identity of the hijackers is still unknown. Sources here said last night the pilot had told the control tower that the Boeing 737 had been hijacked by the Japanese Red Army and that he had been ordered to fly to Singapore. Today, however, Datuk Sulaiman Sujak, deputy chairman of the Malaysian Airlines System, told a news conference: "All the pilot said was that he was being hijacked. By whom, or how many people were involved, we do not know."

A Japanese news agency, quoting an official of the Japanese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, said reports of Red Army involvement in the hijacking apparently arose because four Japanese tourists boarded the airliner mistakenly at Penang. They realized their mistake and got off before it left, the report said.

Airline officials confirmed that the aircraft exploded in the air before crashing on the shoreline of the southern Malaysian state of Johore. Of the 93 passengers, 73 are believed to be Malaysian citizens.

The British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur said at least five Britons were among those on board.

One of them was Mr Thomas Parr, of Lyminister, near Arundel, Sussex, who worked for Euro Medical Industries, in Worthing, and was on a business trip. He leaves a wife and five children.

An informed source said there could be as many as 10 Australians among the dead.

Two officials of the World Bank were known to be among the victims, Herr O. D. Hoerr, of West Germany and Mr S. S. Naime, an American. They were members of a team holding discussions with Malaysian Education Ministry officials on assistance from the bank.

Among others confirmed as dead were Datuk Ali bin Haji Ahmad, the Malaysian Agriculture Minister, and Señor Mario García Inchaustegui, the Cuban Ambassador to Malaysia. Tan Sri Manickavasagam, the Malaysian Communications Minister, told reporters that Captain G. K. Ganjoor, the airliner's pilot, radioed that he was being hijacked and was overflying Kuala Lumpur. Its original route would have taken it from Penang to Kuala Lumpur and on to Singapore.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam said the aircraft later sent a distress signal to Singapore control tower. There was no further contact before it crashed.

Tonight officials were still searching for the aircraft's flight recorder which might throw some light on its last minutes.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Tory leader's tribute to Yugoslav war record

From Dessa Trevisan
Belgrade, Dec 5

Mrs Thatcher, the leader of the Opposition, today assured the Yugoslavs of Britain's admiration and continuing support for the country's independence. She called for a further strengthening of cooperation between Britain and Yugoslavia, particularly in economic matters, and expressed hope for a further improvement of that country's relations with the EEC.

Mrs Thatcher was speaking at a luncheon given by her host, Mr Kiro Gligorov, the president of the Yugoslav National Assembly, after a visit to a factory near Belgrade producing diesel engines under British licence.

This, she said, was an excellent example of the two countries' industrial cooperation of which there should be more. The visit to the factory had given her a good idea of self-management.

Much of her speech was taken up with Yugoslav wartime resistance under President Tito and the moral and material support given by Britain.

Sir Fitzroy MacLean, who was then the head of the British mission, and is accompanying Mrs Thatcher, obviously had inspired her reminiscences.

Mrs Thatcher spoke also of the personal friendship which had developed during the war between Churchill and Marshal Tito. Although she disagreed strongly with the Labour Government on many issues she was in full agreement with it in the "enduring affection and admiration for the people of Yugoslavia and President Tito . . . one of the very few men in history who had proved himself as great a leader in time of peace as he was in time of war".

Mrs Thatcher is due to meet President Tito tomorrow before leaving Yugoslavia. Her crowded schedule included a visit to the Belgrade conference on European security.

After listening to the speeches at the conference, Mrs Thatcher avoided reporters. Asked by a group of journalists about her views on the Belgrade conference, she replied that she would not speak to the press.

Kenya-Tanzania meeting on reopening border

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Dec 5

Teams of senior officials from Kenya and Tanzania met in Mombasa today to draw up guidelines which it is hoped will lead to an early reopening of the border between the two countries.

The border was closed by Tanzania last February, after Tanzania had accused Kenya of bringing about the financial collapse of East African Airways and undermining the East African Community (which collapsed in July).

Pygmy women in salute to new emperor

Bangui, Dec 5.—Emperor Bokassa took the salute at a two-and-a-half-hour parade of the Central African Empire's forces and civilians here today. An estimaeed 100,000 people took part.

It was his first public engagement after his coronation yesterday. He wore a French marshal's uniform.

After a military march past civilians began to file past. The included majorettes, schoolchildren and the Union of Pygmy Women.—Agence France-Presse.

Startling rise in crime on the streets of Bucharest keeps citizens behind locked doors at night

Amnesty for criminals misfires

From David A. Andelman
Bucharest, Dec 5

In two separate amnesties in the last six months the Romanian Government has released about 30,000 young criminals and a handful of political prisoners.

The result has been startling; the people of Bucharest, who once feared mainly the police, are now concerned about criminals.

The amnesties, first proposed last May, were a gamble on the part of the Government, which was concerned that the country might not have the manpower to fulfil its goals for industrial transformation in the next 10 years.

President Ceaucescu also appeared to believe that his country had reached a new stage of socialist development—a breakthrough in the traditional East European way of doing things—and that prisons could and should be done away with and the inmates released to play their role in the building of the new socialist state.

The President therefore ordered the release of the 30,000 prisoners, who had been sentenced to terms of five years or less. They were trained and offered jobs in factories, on construction sites and a range of state enterprises.

Thousands have returned to work. Many are understood to have been placed on newly formed construction crews repairing the extensive damage caused by the earthquake that struck Bucharest earlier this year. Others have been included in vocational training programmes for work in factories.

But thousands of other young prisoners have, in the words of the official party press, failed in their social responsibilities, appearing for a 6 am shift at 10 o'clock, drinking late into the night and, in many cases, returning to the type of crime that had led them to prison in the first place.

Newspapers also reported other instances of men found staggering in Bucharest streets at night, slashed and bleeding, their wallets stolen; and there were accounts of attacks on supermarkets.

These newspaper accounts, lurid by East European standards, only fuelled the traditionally lively Bucharest rumour mill. By early last month, wild accounts were spreading of gang rapes in quiet parks on the capital's fringes and squads of militiamen assaulted, stripped naked, tied up and beaten.

These rumours changed the lives of many people. No longer did crowds of young people stroll arm-in-arm by the moonlit Lake Herastrau, in Bucharest's equivalent of Hyde Park.

Supermarkets that close at 8 pm were finding their aisles empty after dark. Old men and single women who never before had locked their doors were bolting them in broad daylight.

The growing public concern led President Ceausescu, in a speech on November 12 before the Bucharest municipal party organization, to warn the released youths and their families that whatever period of grace they might have had was finished.

The police began to round up youths shortly thereafter. No figures have yet been released on rearrests, but with both the President and a substantial body of public opinion behind them, the police are understood to have been moving decisively.

Romania is a country where law and order have suddenly become highly prized.—New York Times News Service.

Rights plea by 51 Bolivian organizations

La Paz, Dec 5.—Fifty-one Bolivian organizations today asked the military Government to grant a full amnesty to all political prisoners and exiles and to restore all democratic rights.

In a letter to the Government, the various religious, civic, cultural, professional, student, labour and political organizations demanded full respect for human rights as a necessary step in the current restoration of constitutional government.

The letter demanded immediate release of all people being held in prison for political or trade union activities. It also urged the Government to issue a decree authorizing the return of the many political and trade union leaders, as well as workers, students and peasants, now exiled abroad.

Man facing firing squad challenges tribunal

Manila Dec 5.—A Filipino opposition leader, ex-Senator Benigno Aquino, today challenged a military tribunal to examine its conscience and decide if it could really give him a fair trial after having already sentenced him to death by firing squad.

Mr Aquino and two other defendants were convicted 10 days ago on charges of murder and subversion.

Mr Aquino and a civilian lawyer for one of the other defendents issued separate challenges to each of the seven members of the tribunal at the opening of a new hearing. The former senator has accused President Marcos of being involved in a plot in ordering the reopening of a trial after judgment had already been given.

The court turned down each challenge in turn, deliberating for five minutes on each after members declined to answer questions on their impartiality put by the accused.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Philippines Civil Liberties Union, ex-Senator Jose Diokno, a strident critic of martial law and a legal adviser to Mr Aquino, said today he was stopped by the authorities from boarding a flight for London even though he had valid travel papers.

Mr Diokno said he had been invited by Amnesty International to attend a conference on the abolition of the death penalty on December 9-11 in Stockholm.

It was understood that the order to stop him travelling came from senior security officials.—Reuter.

Swapo leaders freed after protest

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Dec 5

Mr Daniel Tjongarero, vice-chairman of the South-West African People's Organization (Swapo) and nine of the 10 people arrested with him in the Owambo area on Friday were released today. The man still held, who has not been named, is described as "a lesser official of Swapo". It has not yet been decided whether he is to be charged.

Those freed, who include six members of the Swapo national executive and a woman secretary, were reported to be still in northern Namibia (South-West Africa). They were arrested while attending a symposium in Owambo.

Brigadier Victor Verster, the commissioner of police in Namibia, disclosed that Mr Tjongarero and the others had been suspected of associating with armed terrorists. He said that the exact reasons for the arrests were sub-judice as police investigations were continuing and there might be charges brought against some people.

The arrests caused concern to diplomats of five Western nations who had spent Friday and Saturday holding further talks on the future of Namibia with South African Government leaders. The Western negotiators were reported to be upset by the news yesterday.

Detainees may not be held for longer than four days under the new security legislation proclaimed recently by Mr Justice M. T. Steyn, the Administrator-General, which bars entry to certain parts of northern Namibia. If the police want to hold suspects longer they must seek explicit permission from the Administrator-General.

During the talks in Pretoria on Namibia, South Africa is believed to have offered further minor modifications to its position on the continued presence of its defence forces, involving further reductions of troops and bases. No agreement has yet been reached on this issue, or on the problems of United Nations supervision and Swapo guarantees to end terrorism.

Social Focus

What it is like to be poor today

The various consultants called in by the Government in 1972 to undertake the "six towns studies" to help local authorities improve the environment in urban areas have produced many weighty reports that have tended to drop like stones into the welter of unread and unheeded documents emanating from government departments each week. One of the latest deserves a wider audience than the local authority officials, civil servants and interested lobbies that usually are the only people to take note.

It is one of the three inner area studies undertaken by consultants and it is based on Small Heath, once an area of high employment in Birmingham, now depressed by higher than average unemployment, striking changes in population structure and development programmes that have left whole areas of housing blighted and their inhabitants demoralized.

What is different about the report is that it does not simply offer the usual conclusions by way of dry, academic research although it concludes firmly that what the people of the area need are higher incomes and decent housing. It reaches that conclusion through interviews with 136 of the poorest households in Small Heath, the largest survey of poor people ever undertaken in Britain.

One of the women interviewed was so unusually articulate, that the entire transcript of the interview is included as an appendix to the report. Because it throws clear light on the feelings of the poorly housed and financially straightened people in Britain now, we publish below an edited version of the interview. In contrast to the woman's own description of her present conditions, the interviewer records that the house was well decorated and well furnished, modern and bright and the children well behaved: the baby of 11 months sitting at table eating stew and feeding herself.

The interview began with the woman's description of why she moved away from another part of Birmingham, where she was surrounded by older neighbours who objected to her children. The interviewer then asked why she had chosen Small Heath.

Mrs Barnes: This was a nicer area when I came, and I had lovely neighbours—very good to me. If one of the babies was ill and I couldn't get to the shop, they'd think nothing of knocking on the door. "Can I bring you some grocery down or fetch your dinner in?", you know. I was much happier then. It's just now the area has gone so bad.

Interviewer: In what way has it gone down?

Mrs Barnes: Well, all the problem families were moved in. I have nothing against this—I know what its like having problems myself. I know the kids have got to play, but I know also there has got to be a time when you say "No. You can't do that". I wouldn't let them jump over my furniture. But the families that moved in, if they saw a flower, it was trampled. That, and then they started moving the old neighbours out that were here when I came here and let's face it, it's the old ones that keep the standards up in the road.

Interviewer: Why do you think the old people keep the standards up?

Mrs Barnes: They do, because in their day there was none of these fancy table cloths and glass topped tables—it was a scrubbed clean table—so white you could chop up on it, and they didn't believe in carpets down, they liked to scrub. And you find old people, no matter how difficult, they'll still try and clean outside their windows and you find they wouldn't dream of putting that red stuff on the step, they would rather get down and scrub it.

Interviewer: Are things getting better or worse?

Mrs Barnes: Oh, it's terrible. All these derelict houses empty round us. The children, because there is nothing else for them, go into them and play bonfires. They set light to the place and they don't realize the danger they are causing in the next house. For instance, the house that's empty next door to us. Young kids went in there, 18—up to that age even—and they lit a terrific fire. And my baby was in bed. The other children had just had a bath and we were sitting in here watching television. And the next thing I knew, Andy, that's my husband, came bounding in and said: "Where is the baby?" and I said: "She's in bed." He said: "Oh my God, quick the house is alight upstairs!" Oh, dear, it was a terrible shock. And we went running up and we couldn't find her for the smoke. Anyway, as it worked out, she was all right, but then again maybe another half-hour or so, maybe she wouldn't have been. We could have lost her. The police came and the fire was put out and it was only three hours after this fire was put out that it was relit again. And my floorboards were all steaming hot and they ruined my sheets with the smoke. My bedroom furniture, it's old but we modernized it ourselves, done it in white and put the fancy knobs on, little by little, and of course all this through the smoke turned black.

Interviewer: Did you get any compensation?

Mrs Barnes: No, nothing. We are just expected to accept this. ... I've always looked after my windows, ever since I have been in the road, always, they've been my pride, my windows. Now I've just got no heart to do them. I came back the other day and the bedroom had been put through, all the glass had shattered everywhere, and now the front bay window as well, that's gone through. ... I can't put my baby in the back garden, well, if you can call it a garden—it's a piece of yard—for the rats running around. And the rats are as big as cats! I fetched the Housing Environment Officer down, and he said "Well, I expect there is the stray rat", he said, "but I wouldn't say they were running around". And as it happened there was one runnig around and he said "My God, I'm very sorry". He put poison down and that, but you can't clear anything like that so quick. We're overrun with mice. Mice in this house are running just wild. I fetched the environment officer in again because I have to think of my baby—she's not one year yet, and I told him that a mouse had been in her cot—and this is true—and the words of the man was "Well, I'll put some poison down, but I don't think you will ever clear them up because to clear the mice in this house, we've got to clear a whole run of houses." So it's a waste of time. We've got no hot water, we've got no bath for the children. On a Sunday we get no water, not cold water either. So we contacted the Water Department and explained that I must have water. With seven children I've got to have water, even if it's only cold. I've got to have water. And he said the ground had sunk underneath that much that it would cost that much to reconstruct the damage that we've just got got to manage with what we could. So I fill my washing machine up now of a Saturday so that I've got water for a Sunday.

At that point in the interview, there was a sound of breaking glass and the house opposite had a brick thrown through the bay window, which had completely smashed the whole window. Mrs Barnes went on to say that she had been offered another home six months previously but "it had just been destroyed" and it was too far from shops or transport for her to manage with seven children.

Interviewer: Did you ever give your reasons when you refused it?

Mrs Barnes: I just told them I would be very unhappy there—I know I would before I went. Well, you know, this is the truth, when we come into this house it had got Boer War paint on it, and the old fashionedest paper you'ver ever seen, and I was in my element, could hardly wait for paper and brushes! I loved it, I was in a pair of jeans for a week. I couldn't wait to get the kids to school to have another little go—it was great—you could see what you had done. . . . Now, it's a misery, but I think I am trying to hang on to the happiness—out of 15 years of marriage, I think the four years here before it got bad was the best four years I've ever had.

Interviewer: Tell me, what sort of work does your husband do?

Mrs Barnes: He's unemployed at the moment.

Interviewer: Oh dear, has he been out of work long?

Mrs Barnes: He was working for himself and he has been off 12 months now—a long time.

Interviewer: Did you find it made a big difference to you?

Mrs Barnes: Well, I'm used to managing with money. I've always had to manage with money. I've got a good husband; I've got something that maybe other people haven't—I don't just get "poor" money when my husband's out of work and everything's down. Because my husband's out of work he's not a man to take anything off us. He gives us; he will go without his things more than my babies. Since the time he has been out they've never gone short of shoes—school uniforms, clothes, nothing, though there are seven of them. They still go to school as any other child would. I've always sent them to school decent.

Interviewer: Has he had any jobs offered in that period?

Mrs Barnes: No. He has been after jobs, my father was trying to get him in with him in the Parks Department. I know it's not a very high graded job—but it's a job. As Andy said, he would shovel anything in the road if it was work and brought in money for the kids. I'd even go out to work myself if Andy was at work. I'd take evening part-time work to bring us back up to standard, you know, but it's not so easy. It's terrible.

Interviewer: Have you found it's made any difference to your family life?

Mrs Barnes: Well, me and Andy have the worry, but the kids never know about it. We know the pennies are tight but our babies—well, for instance, to give you an example. We was on the bus not long ago, and one of the babies shouted down the bus—oh, I was so embarrassed!—"Have you been to the bank today?" So Andy said "Yes". "We've got about £500 in the bank now, haven't we Dad?" Well, on this bus was a few of the neighbours. We always tell the kids on Friday it's pay day and that much is for Father Christmas and this is for the bank. We've got no bank, but I think if my babies feel secure, no matter how things get hard or how the future's going to be—I mean, next year if he's out, things might get even harder than they are now—our babies will think to themselves—"They are a bit worried but they have got money in the bank . . ." So we had to shout back "Um . . .", you know trying to pass it off. "Oh God", I said, "Let's get off the bus, or the people would be thinking Christ, claiming social security and £500 in the bank'". But we couldn't just shout "No, we haven't", because if it was a case of shattering my neighbours or shattering my kids—it would be my neighbours!

● Taken from *Circumstances of Familes*, Report by the Consultants, Inner Area Study, Birmingham. Published by the Department of the Environment IAS/B/12, £2.60.

Pat Healy
Social Sc[illegible]es Correspondent

Time for mothering to come back into fashion

The current British obsession with self-examination of our society for explanations of its demoralized state might be simplified if we looked for reversible factors. Blaming our Victorian ancestors for their mistakes is profitable only so far as their errors can be corrected by the present generation.

One such error was the arrogant nineteenth-century conviction that man could "rise above" his animal instincts. Only recently has the falsity of that belief become obvious, as psychologists and ethologists have found how much human behaviour is biologically determined and how rewarding it is for individuals to allow their instincts full expression rather than trying to repress them.

Nowhere is this change in our understanding more important than in attitudes and expectations about bringing up children. Housing and other environmental factors may contribute to the high rates of teenage violence, vandalism and rejection of conventional values; but the quality of parental care is a more fundamental influence.

Whatever the physical quality of his home, a child brought up by caring parents in an emotionally stable setting is far less likely to have behavioural or academic problems, and the same is true throughout adolescence and the late teens. Here the damaging legacy from the past—and one which is peculiarly British—is the belief that children may be brought up anonymously by servants or child minders, au pair girls, or even schoolteachers with only limited contact with their parents.

Psychiatrists such as Professor Michael Rutter [illegible] of disturbed children emphasize the importance of close attachments in early childhood. "The situation most likely to cause problems in this respect," Professor Rutter says "is the old-style institution, where the child is cared for by a large number of adults who come and go without anyone having special responsibility for individual children."

Schools and children's homes may have learnt this lesson, but many parents are still prepared to hand over infants to a succession of transient helps, while others are forced by economic circumstances to put their children into day-care with childminders who can give no individual attention. At all levels of society the care of their own small children is still seen by some parents as an inferior, second-best occupation. More recently this attitude has been reinforced by the case argued by activist women's groups for their liberation from the "tyranny" of housework and motherhood.

By insisting that every woman has a right to a career they have made those who preferred to stay at home feel that they are doing wrong. Psychologist Penelope Leach has spent many years studying the relationships of children to their mothers and tells of women who felt guilty because they were enjoying life with a two-year-old, believing that they ought to want to do something more fulfilling.

The inescapable truth is that every baby will become emotionally attached to someone—and though this is usually the mother, there is no biological necessity about it. "Most babies select their mothers for this first love. But it is not the blood-tie which gives you the privilege", Dr Leach says. "It is a privilege and it has to be earned. You earn it not by just being her mother but by mothering her. . . . She needs some one person who always comes when she needs help or company, who notices when she smiles and smiles back, and who listens and replies." Her new comprehensive account of child care *Baby and Child* (Michael Joseph, £6.95) differs from most similar manuals in its emphasis on the joy that comes from such a close relationship formed in infancy (and the beautiful illustrations by Camilla Jessel capture the feeling perfectly).

How can our society have so misled women that they can feel uncomfortable because they find a life spent with a two-year-old immensely rewarding? Furthermore, anyone who argues that as women have become better educated their minds have been opened should remember that for most of the population the only work available is likely to be monotonous, ill-paid and without prospects.

Clearly all women are not fulfilled by motherhood, however—and it would be equally unkind to suggest that those who are not should feel themselves to be abnormal. Those who do choose to pursue a career while their children are small infants can be reassured that they can do so without risk of emotional damage to the child so long as they provide a mother-substitute with whom he or she can form an enduring relationship.

Bowlby, whose pioneering work on bonding has had such an important influence on present day attitudes to child-rearing, has suggested that there is a bias for a child to attach himself especially to one figure, but there are many children who form multiple attachments of varying intensity. It can, indeed, be argued that a child with multiple bondings is likely to be less upset if his mother has to go away for some reason. What seems indisputable, however, is that the infant needs some centre to his universe—some one or two persons who can be relied on for comfort and reassurance when they are most needed.

Furthermore, while the psychological damage caused by failure of these attachments is worse when the breach occurs in infancy the child needs security well into the teens. Again, children of working mothers need not be at special risk—indeed Professor Rutter has argued that in some circumstances these children may be better off, since their mothers have an increased range of interests, are more content, and so have more to give the family.

The danger comes when the work fatigues the mother while the child has to cope with a constantly changing succession of parent-figures. The common sense compromise for many families is for the mother of schoolchildren to work part-time—long enough to give her some intellectual satisfaction and adult company but not so long that she can no longer find the energy for mothering nor, indeed, enjoy it.

If, then, more encouragement needs to be given to women to value their biological role as mothers, what are the practical implications? The 1960s saw a great surge of public demand for day nurseries and crèches: the expanding economy wanted more women workers and the liberation movement was at the peak of its propaganda campaign urging women to work as of right. Both trends have now reversed—and not just in Britain: even in Eastern Europe women with small babies are no longer being encouraged to return to full-time work.

At the same time there is a very real need for women to be provided with some means of widening their horizons beyond the nappy bucket. Play schools and nurseries can provide children with social contact and their mothers with a chance for adult activities and conversation; but there is an important difference between a mother handing a child over to a nursery or a minder for eight hours every day and her doing the same thing for two hours in the mornings.

Furthermore there is an economic argument. At a time of high unemployment it makes no sense to encourage women to place their children in nurseries or give them to nannies in order to work at jobs that could be done by others. Dr Mia Kellmer Pringle, director of the National Children's Bureau, has consistently argued that our society should examine the cost-effectiveness of offering women the option of being paid to bring up their own children.

At present many young wives are forced to work by financial pressures: as Dr Pringle has said "until adequate financial support for child rearing becomes available to all mothers as of right, women's true preferences cannot be known". We can say, however, that there would be no doubt about the social and psychological benefits to children of a return to fashion of committed mothering.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

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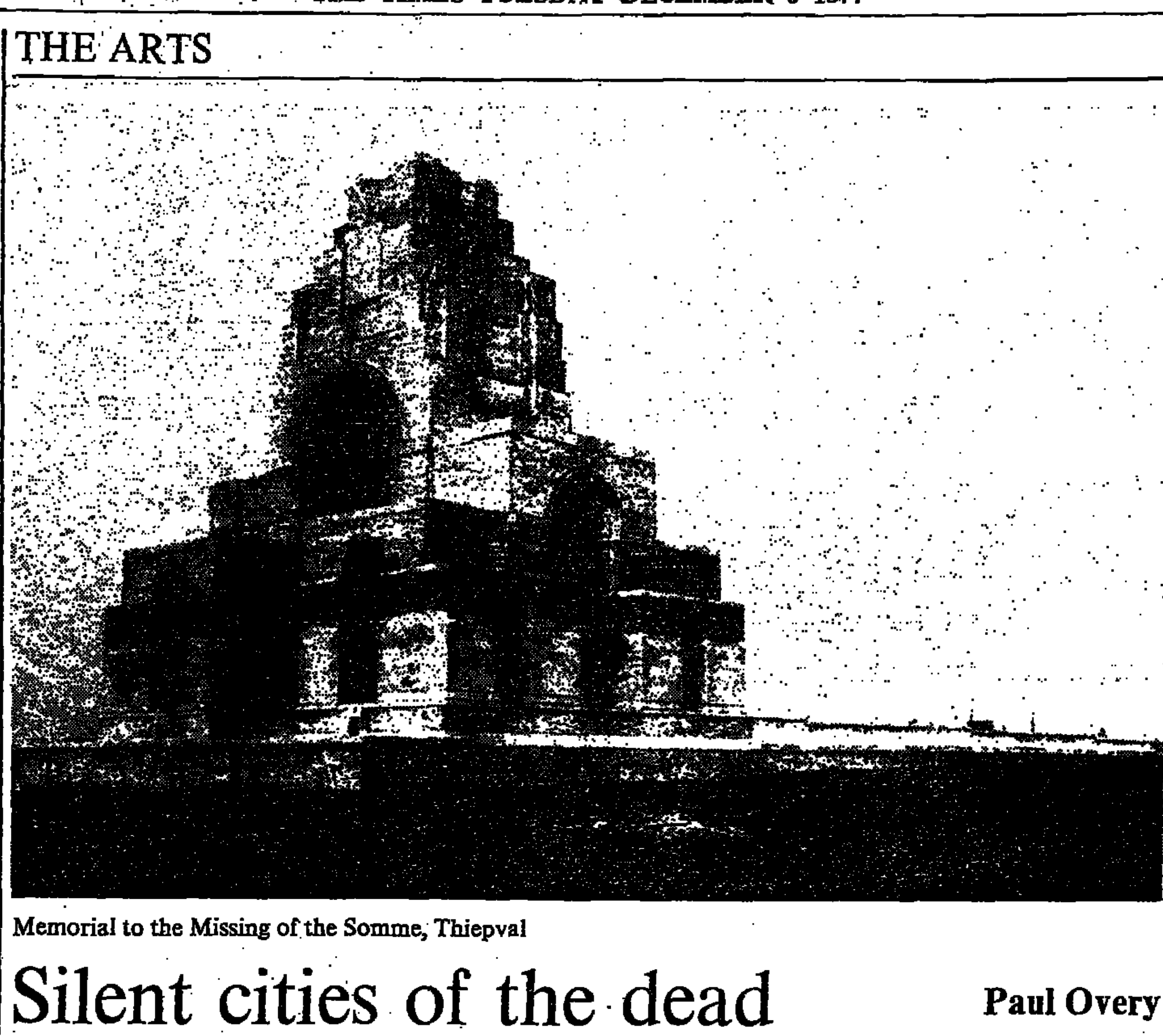
THE ARTS



Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, Thiepval

Silent cities of the dead

Paul Overy

Visit any small village in Britain and the war memorial will pull you up short. Not because of any real merit in the memorials themselves, but because of the length of the list of men who died in the Great War. Yet Britain lost proportionately less of the population than France, Germany and Austria.

However well (or badly) designed are the great memorials and serried ranks of war graves in France, Belgium and the other theatres of the First World War, they cannot but inspire awe by the sheer appalling weight of numbers. The emotional charge they hold could not leave anyone unmoved.

Silent Cities, an exhibition at the RIBA's Heinz Gallery (21 Portman Square, until December 22), not only gives a fascinating visual record of these memorials and graveyards, but also raises some far-reaching questions about architecture and twentieth-century civilization in the texts which accompany the photographs and designs, and in the closely related catalogue introduction, both by Gavin Stamp, who organized the exhibition.

Stamp writes: "In the battles of 1914-18 human lives seem to have been as expendable as shells, but each life was to receive a permanent memorial in stone; the Great War provides many such ironies." On the other hand, it could be that this was not an "irony" but an attempt to try to placate the populace. After all, we know now that there were several mutinies or attempted mutinies in the armed forces towards the end of the Great War, and that certain areas of Britain ("Red Clydeside") were on the brink of revolution. Could not an idea of the marking of every known grave, and the inscribing of the names of all the missing on huge awe-inspiring monuments, be interpreted as being in the same spirit as Lloyd George's promise of "homes fit for heroes"? The designer and teacher W. R. Lethaby, at least, thought so in 1919: "The people asked for houses and we have given them stones." Siegfried Sassoon described the Menin Gate (the Ypres Memorial to the Missing) unveiled in 1927 as "a pile of peace-complacent stone."

> Well might the Dead who
> struggled in the slime
> Rise and deride this sepulchre
> of crime.

Stamp believes otherwise. He points out that a conscious effort was made to be democratic. Families who wished to exhume their dead and return them to England were forbidden to do so, and a uniform headstone was designed to accommodate every race and creed on which an appropriate regimental or religious symbol could be discreetly carved. Empire troops, like the Indians, got the same treatment as British, the Chinese labourers, who had been employed at the front, almost the same. Some official report sheets in the exhibition record the length to which tactful attempts were made to incorporate national features into a Chinese cemetery at Noyelles-sur-Mer. One ends with the note: "Since Capt Parker wrote this, the Poplars have been changed to Cypresses on the advice of Lieut Rogers, the representative of the Chinese adviser, as being more suitable to a Chinese Cemetery." But in a report of a month later we find: "All Headstones for this Cemetery have been engraved and are erected by Chinese labourers, who were especially held back from repatriation to do this work, so that there will be considerable saving on the cost of this work."

The best-known architects of the day were employed. Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Reginald Blomfield were the principal architects, soon joined by Charles Holden, later to design London University Senate House (which looks like a war memorial) and Tube stations for Frank Pick. Blomfield's designs were the most blandly classical, and one can understand why his Menin Gate elicited Sassoon's wrath. Lutyens's colossal and awesome Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, at Thiepval, looks much more impressive and original a structure: its forms abstract and cubic, a huge squared-off stepped pyramid pierced by arches, with 73,357 names carved on its walls.

Each cemetery had a "Great War Stone" designed by Lutyens, and a "Cross of Sacrifice" designed by Blomfield—except that in some cemeteries designed by Blomfield the Cross is designed by Lutyens ("jealousy between the Principal Architects had to be avoided"). Rudyard Kipling chose the text from Ecclesiasticus which is carved on the Great War Stone in every cemetery: "Their Name Liveth for Evermore." And Kipling devised the phrase which was inscribed on each unidentified grave, "A Soldier of the Great War known unto God." Landscape architects and gardeners were employed in laying out the cemeteries which are still well-tended. (A related exhibition of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's work in conserving the memorials, monuments and graves of the two world wars is on show until Friday at the RIBA in Portland Place.) When the King visited the former battlefields in 1922 he said: "I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon earth through the years to come than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war." He was wrong.

The work of the War Graves Commission after the Great War cost just over £8m—a little over a third of the cost of the Battle of Passchendaele and about £8 for each man dead. Not a vast expense. In London the Cenotaph is the most famous monument: a disappointing example of Lutyens's work, which awkwardly fits its constricted site in Whitehall. Far more impressive is Holden's memorial to the Royal Artillery at Hyde Park Corner (with sculpture by Charles Jagger) which every Londoner knows and loves.

In the twentieth century some of the most interesting sculpture has been made by painters. Willem De Kooning first began to produce sculpture in 1969, when he was 65, while on holiday in Rome. In these and his later sculptures De Kooning pushes and pulls the clay about like plasticine: the resulting figures are half-caricatures, half-expressionist, reminiscent of Daumier's sculptures. They have the enormous energy which seems largely to have gone out of his paintings recently, as can be seen by comparison at the exhibition at the Serpentine until January 8. The exhibition also includes some fine earlier paintings of the late Sixties. The more recent paintings, although inferior to these, are better than the sweet and flaccid works which were shown at Gimpel Fils last year.

Symphony Bruckner dedicated to God

LSO/Kubelik
Festival Hall

William Mann

Bruckner dedicated his ninth and last symphony to God, and in its finale he put into music what most of us imagine Paradise to be like. These distant mysterious fanfares are surely the same trumpets that Bunyan's Mr Valiant-for-Truth heard on his way to the other side, and I dare say that people of other faiths recognize them too.

The movement in question was played with an imagination and fine ear for orchestral colour, by the London Symphony Orchestra under Rafael Kubelik on South Bank on Sunday, that could not but inspire metaphysical fantasies, such a wealth of musicianly intensity and human understanding went into it. To be factual for a moment, the performance was based on a bed of rich and ideally balanced, but not unclean, string tone, the LSO strings at their finest, supported by a fine woodwind choir (chiefly remarkable in solo passages) and a powerful brass section, including the new Wagner tubas making their LSO début and handsomely too, sometimes over-enthusiastically.

When, after a climax of gigantic emotional potency, the movement passed through autobiographical allusions to its serene close in E major, the statement seemed to have been made in full. Musical people are aware that a symphony in D minor could not reasonably, for a composer of Bruckner's generation, properly end in the supertonic. But Kubelik had made of Bruckner's ninth a perfectly satisfying trilogy, rather along Dante's lines, with that biting Scherzo as *Purgatorio* (the exquisitely fast dance of the Trio belongs nowhere in Limbo, admittedly), the first movement, grandly sculpted, as Hell on earth, perhaps inadequacy measured against idealism, big issues nobly argued.

Kubelik takes a warm view of Bruckner, without ignoring structural coherence; changes of pace were made with expert cunning so that the music always flowed. The actual note-values were sometimes blurred, as if the difference between staccato quavers and staccato crotchets were no matter, though it certainly is. The performance, granted its faults as human, made a profound effect just because it was so human in tone of voice, a fallible but inspired man patterning the stuff of eternity.

Kubelik, at his finest as a conductor, has always blended energy with contemplation and feeling; precision may not rank high among his musical priorities. Nevertheless he is a stylish Mozartian, as he showed with the Prague Symphony in the first part of the concert. Its slow introduction was rhythmically cloudy but very dramatic, deep into the world of *Don Giovanni*, its Andante as much anxious as delectable, its finale all fire and enthusiasm. That description may suggest a romantic interpretation, which it was not, because classic poise remained central to the conception, if not the fulfilment. Classicism is an unattainable but perceived ideal for artists, as Marxism is for Communists, or Christianity for Christians.

Juilliard Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Barry Millington

In the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday afternoon the Juilliard Quartet, giving the first of three concerts devoted to the 10 main quartets of Mozart, played those in G, K387, B flat, K589, and D, K499. From the start it was impossible not to be impressed by the ensemble's precision and total unanimity, but lest that should be interpreted as suggesting an unsympathetic, calculated approach by the quartet, it is important to add that the Juilliard use their meticulous sense of ensemble for the most expressive ends.

If one speaks of the communal rise and fall of dynamics and the simultaneous ebb and flow of rhythm within the basic pulse, it is not merely the excellent ensemble to which one refers, that can be dealt with by marking of parts. The Juilliard also expand and contract together like the breathing of a single organism; moreover, they listen while they play, which is a rarer quality than one might think.

In the first movement of K499 the broad phrase at bar 23, the first *forte* marking, showed not simply a common decision to play louder but a corporate feeling for the mood behind the new idea.

One could point to countless similar examples but the one that lingers in the memory is the sense of distancing that came over the music in the slow movement of K387 in the passage of remote tonalities.

In the circumstances it would be inappropriate to single out any one of the group for special mention but it would also be unfair not to cite the playing of Earl Carlyss and Joel Krosnick (second violin and cello) in the larghetto dialogue of K589 as a typical example of fine individual musicianship.

The remaining two concerts in the series should not be missed by any who value first-class quartet playing.

Nina Simone
Drury Lane

Richard Williams

Nina Simone is one of the finest interpreters of popular song since Billie Holiday, but her career has been blighted by a mercurial temperament and by a desire to go her own way. She has found, too, that to use her art in the service of political causes is to alienate the affections of those who hold the promotional purse-strings. Her public, though, is uncommonly loyal and she rewarded them on Sunday with a warm and generous recital.

An early highlight was a slow, mournful "Little Girl Blue", sung over the contrasting rhythm of a fantasia on "Good King Wenceslas", of all things. She then rose to her feet and invited the audience to participate in a gospel song: it is not easy to persuade a Drury Lane audience to sound like the congregation of the Greater Harvest Baptist Church of New Jersey, but they came close enough; later she even coaxed the hall into harmony on an African chant.

Her musicianship was heard to best advantage on the jazz and blues tunes, like "My Baby Just Cares For Me", with an alternation of stride and fugal techniques (and a charming nod to Erroll Garner in the solo) and Miss Holiday's "Fine and Mellow" with pantherish bass lines.

On show songs she displayed a more florid and orchestral approach, spanning the keyboard with tumbling runs and roaring tremeloes on her Grand Guignol accounts of "Pirate Jenny" and "Alabama Song". It is a measure of her superb timing (and perhaps of the resilience of the work of Brecht and Weill) that the songs were not engulfed by such histrionics. Occasionally, in "In My Life" and the dreadful "My Way", she stooped to a bathetic self-regard but all was redeemed by two songs, the tragic "Four Women" and the terrifyingly ominous "Lilac Wine", which allowed perfect settings for that acrid, sardonic voice and peerlessly dramatic phrasing.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Franz into April
ICA

Irving Wardle

"Life is a process", declares the hero of Pam Gems's midday piece: "plenty of time to name it when it is dead". You could say the same of the play itself, which offers no neat definition of Gestalt therapy, but leaves you with a powerfully comic idea of Gestalt as a living process.

Closely modelled on the Gestalt pioneer Fritz Perls and set in a replica of his Esalen Therapy Centre, the piece opens with Warren Mitchell prowling the floor in search of a candidate for the hot seat. At this point it seems that we are in for an instructive demonstration of Perlsian analysis garnished with Viennese jokes. But no sooner is the session under way, with a runaway wife (Lise Hilboldt) holding a dialogue with her absent husband, than the proceedings are disrupted by a disapproving girl who walks out and kills the atmosphere.

That is the last we see of formal analysis. The rest of the piece shows Franz in pursuit of the saboteur, a mousey English physiotherapist, who uses all the conventional tactics of brushing off a dirty old man before succumbing to him behind a well-placed rubber plant during the Centre's Saturday night party.

The first impression is either that the play has gone completely off the rails, or that it is exposing Franz as a lecherous charlatan. What gradually emerges is that Miss Gems is dismantling the authoritarian structure of the opening scene to establish Franz's doctrine that there are no gurus and that each human being is responsible for making himself up as he goes along. The seduction of April is a straight piece of sexual farce, equipped with ludicrous anti-climaxes, as where the doctor is summoned to judge a tango competition just after he has dived under her skirt. But at the same time it is a therapy in which Franz isolates her choice of a self-obliterating career as a revenge tactic against her mother.

The stages of analysis are clearly marked out; but what is most remarkable in Mr Mitchell's fast-talking, mock-professional performance is that the "un-guru, genius, and ladies' man" are all simultaneously present: which seems one good working definition of Gestalt. He is also splendidly partnered in Frank Hatherley's production by Patricia Franklin, who is several times goaded into memorably wounding outbursts of sexual hostility. Sally Gardner supplies the show with a Hockney-like evocation of playground California.

Fine drawings from Angers

The latest loan exhibition organized by the Heim Gallery in what has by now become a series of unusual connoisseur interest is a selection of the finest drawings from the museums of Angers. How the ancient capital of Anjou has benefited by the acquisitions and legacies of nineteenth-century artists and amateurs of the arts can be seen in the choice of a hundred examples, the main emphasis being on drawings of the neo-Classical school, though older masters, French, Italian and northern, are also represented. The bequest of Count Turpin de Crissé which forms the nucleus of the museum that bears his name included many works by his French contemporaries, Ingres among them, handsomely represented. At public sales de Crissé also acquired such outstanding drawings as Rubens's study of *Captives in Chains* (after Salviati) and Zuccaro's *A Prophet*.

A separate development was that of the Musée des Beaux-Arts, founded under the Consulate, which was able to assemble a complete collection of works by the celebrated Angevin sculptor David d'Angers. There are drawings to show his command of anatomy as well as the tender mood of his study of mother and child, *Madame Gisors and daughter*. From him came many drawings by other hands. Two superb studies by Jacques Louis David for his *The Oath of the Horatii* set the neo-Classical key of the exhibition. Unexpected items are two drawings by the northern Romantic Casper David Friedrich, whom David d'Angers met on a visit to Germany, typical in their bleakness of ruin and mournful distance.

The exhibition continues in London until December 22 and goes on in the New Year to the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, and the City Art Gallery, Birmingham.

Drawings by Yoshitoshi, the Japanese print-maker and illustrator, one of the last of the popular ukiyo-e school, form a dramatic display at the Milne-Henderson Gallery, Mount Street. First drafts for prints and book illustrations, the drawings are executed in two tones, black and red, a soft red providing a base for the more definite black outline. Action and vigour of movement are conveyed in a spirited fashion. Two styles can be distinguished, suited to his varied clientele, a stylized refinement and a more popularly illustrative treatment of subject.

Victorian Painting at the Fine Arts Society is a selection that concentrates more on the idealistic, mystic, fantastic and symbolist aspects of the century's painting than on its realism. Besides its examples of Burne-Jones and G. F. Watts, the exhibition includes such now less familiar names as those of Arthur Hacker, who personifies doom in his *And there was a Great Cry in Egypt*, and John Anster Fitzgerald, fertile in fairy-tale visions. The exhibition continues until Friday.

William Gaunt

ENTERTAINMENTS

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OPERA AND BALLET · **CONCERTS** · **THEATRES**

THEATRES

REGENT. 01-637 9862/3. M. T. W. & F. 8.00. Thurs. & Sat. 6.15 & 8.45. SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN CHICAGO and DUCK VARIATIONS by David Mamet. "The talk is dirty, the people are nice . . . You will have a good time."—N.Y. Daily News. "Talented eroticism." D. Tel. Instant Credit Card Reservations.

ROUND HOUSE. 267 2564. Eves. 8. ACTORS COMPANY in DO YOU LOVE ME? by R. D. Laing. "Remarkably inventive."—Times.

ROYAL COURT. 730 1745. Mon.-Fri. 8. Sat. 5 & 8.30. Abbey Theatre Production of TALBOT'S BOX. A new play by Thomas Kilroy. "A theatrical triumph . . . unparalleled in London at this time."—Gdn. See also Theatre Upstairs.

ROYALTY. 405 8004. Monday-Thursday Evgs. 8.0. Fri. 5.30 & 8.45. Sat. 3.0 & 8.0. Billy Daniels in London's Smash Hit Musical BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR. Limited number of seats available for Matinee Performances.

ST. MARTIN'S. 836 1443. Evgs. 8. Tue. 2.45. Sat. & Dec 26 at 5. 8. AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP. WORLD'S LONGEST EVER RUN. 26th YEAR.

SAVOY. 01-836 8888. C. C. Evenings 8.0. Mat. Thurs. 3.0. Sat. 5.0 & 8.30. No perfs. Dec. 23, 24. Extra mat. Dec. 26. 4.0.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

. . .

AGGY FITZGIBBON, MILL MARTIN, DAVID FIRTH & ROBIN RAY in the BRILLIANT MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM. "GO TWICE."—S. Morley, Punch. "Go 3 Times."—C. Barnes, N.Y.T.

GREENWICH THEATRE. 858 7755. Evgs. 7.30. Mat. Sats. 2.30. VIVIEN MERCHANT, PATRICK ALLEN in THE FATHER by August Strindberg.

HAMPSTEAD. 722 9301. Evgs. 8. Sat. Mat. 5. Bernard Pomerance's "Superb play". Observer. THE ELEPHANT MAN. "A compulsive & beautiful play". . . "Not to be missed". Gdn.

"THE STAGE IS AGLOW" Daily Telegraph. RICHARD BECKINSALE in I LOVE MY WIFE. "HILARIOUS COMEDY MUSICAL" Sun. Directed by Gene Saks with "Bountiful invention & wit" F Times. INSTANT CONFIRMED CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS ON 01-930 0846

QUEEN'S THEATRE. 01-734 1166. Evgs. 8.0. Sat. 5.0, 8.30. Mat. Wed 3.0. ALEC GUINNESS in . . THE OLD COUNTRY. A New Play by ALAN BENNETT. Directed by CLIFFORD WILLIAMS. "One of the most notable theatrical events in this country for a good many years."—B. Levin, S. Times.

CINEMAS

SPORT

Football

England manager will pick his own helpers, FA secretary says

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Another week of speculation over the name of the England manager has been inflicted on the bemused public. All of the likely candidates have been seen by the Football Association committee but it will not be until next Monday at noon that a decision will be officially announced. "Informed sources" will have a field week.

Three more candidates were interviewed yesterday morning. Brian Clough was there without Peter Taylor, but he made it clear to everyone that "wherever I go Peter goes"; Lawrie McMenemy, the former guardsman, said his interview was all very correct; and Ron Greenwood gave nothing away, although he did point out that unlike the others he already had an office in the building.

Hints were deep rather than broad. Ted Croker, the FA secretary, was slightly more informative than those who had been verbally dissected by Professor Sir Harold Thompson and his colleagues. He said: "It will be a team job. A very different kind of job from club level. There are a group of jobs and there will be a close liaison between the teaching side and the international side. The system will certainly be different than it has before."

He said the interviews were finished. "We have interviewed around half a dozen and these have taken place over the past month or so. The committee expected to name the top man next Monday. Because of the importance of the job the committee wanted time to make up their minds. They have not considered anything at this stage but every possibility has been discussed and it will be up to the man who gets the job to decide who will work with him."

Presumably none of the candidates would welcome being classed as "assistant" to the new overall manager so the terms and titles are important. As Mr McMenemy said: "I am prepared to work with anyone for the good of the game providing I am given the responsibility and not just there to carry the balls in a bag."

He said that his interview, which lasted an hour, was "as fair as any interview can be" and he added: "We discussed English football and what needs to be done to get it right." He said he was prepared to act in a part-time capacity. He said: "The committee are responsible people and experienced people but they will never be right. No matter who they pick someone will complain."

Mr Clough said: "We discussed a lot of things appertaining to football. There were no conditions laid down, but I wouldn't be here if I didn't fancy the job. I've always wanted the England job or to be associated with it. I didn't get as far as this last time. Managing a side, whether it is England, Nottingham Forest or Hartlepool, where I started, is the same thing. It is down to management and I think I have had success. I would hope to do the same for England. I feel the FA should have the best manager but don't ask me who I think it is." He would not say whether he would be prepared to work with Mr Greenwood.

At least the proposal that senior England teams should be the joint responsibility of a committee of well known managers, thankfully, seems to have been dismissed. Mr McMenemy said: "I was told that whoever is given the responsibility for the team will also pick it." And Mr Croker described the new set-up as "very different to those of the past but not revolutionary". He said: "The man chosen will be responsible for a clear involvement including coaching at all levels. It will be up to him, in connexion with the selection committee, to pick the men he would like working with him." That could mean that Mr Greenwood will have overall charge of future development and a colleague of his choice be named as team manager.

Bristol City's first trophy for 40 years

Bristol C 1 St Mirren 1

Bristol City won their first football cup in more than 40 years when they held St Mirren to a 1—1 draw at Ashton Gate last night. A goal by Kevin Mabbutt on his 19th birthday brought them the Anglo-Scottish Cup on a 3—2 aggregate.

A crowd of 16,100 saw Reid, a defender, pull back a goal for St Mirren with an overhead kick following a corner in the 68th minute. Mabbutt's equalizer came three minutes later, also from a corner, as he headed in Clive Whitehead's cross. Although it was a clean, open game, the Scottish club ended with three bookings: Beckett, Copland and Stark.

Tilbury 2 Kettering 2

Tilbury and Kettering were ordered to replay their first round FA cup tie, because Kettering fielded an ineligible player, and they must meet for a third time on Wednesday.

Tilbury came agonizingly close to turning their reprieve into a lucrative second round visit to Nuneaton. After a spectacular 12th minute goal from Kellock had put Kettering ahead, Tilbury hit back with two goals from Smith. Phipps earned Kettering a replay in the 74 minute.

Bournemouth 1 Colchester 4

A fine treble by Colin Garwood enabled Colchester to sink Bournemouth, who had taken a seventh minute lead in the FA Cup first round second replay at Watford. Colchester's prize is a return to Vicarage Road, to take on Watford, the Fourth division leaders, in the next round.

Jago accepts US offer but Campbell decides to stay

Gordon Jago suddenly decided yesterday that the life style and money in the United States were too good to ignore, and accepted the job of head coach at Tampa Bay Rowdies. Mr Jago was released by Millwall after a stay of just over three years as manager and plans to leave Britain for the sunshine of Florida in January to take up a three-year appointment.

Another London manager, Bobby Campbell of Fulham, has rejected a reported offer of over £20,000 to manage Philadelphia. Fulham were prepared to let him go. Mr Campbell said. "I believe there is something at Fulham worth staying for. I have had one or two offers in the past couple of months, and of course they are tempting, but a lot of hard work has gone into the last year at Fulham."

While the board agreed to Mr Jago's request, the Millwall directors indicated their annoyance in a statement, which said: "Whilst recognizing and understanding the financial and other attractions of the opportunity which has been made available to Mr Jago, the directors are nevertheless deeply disappointed to learn that he wishes to be released from a contractural obligation which he entered into at his own request, particularly at a time when the club is confronted with many problems."

Theo Foley, the assistant manager, will take charge of the team until a new appointment is made. He faces a difficult time because Millwall have won only two league matches this season and their gates have dropped below 6,000.

Two years ago, Mr Jago turned down the post of manager of the United States national side and director of coaching with a four-year contract worth about £30,000 a year. Mr Jago, 44, decided then that his 13-year-old daughter's education came first.

He knows the American scene intimately having spent two years coaching Baltimore Bays.

Alan Hardaker, the Football League secretary, has denied reports that the ban preventing European players signing for English clubs is to be lifted from next season. Mr Hardaker attended a meeting in Rome with the Football Association secretary, Ted Croker, and Dr Franco Carrero, the chairman of the Italian FA. He stressed: "The meeting in Rome was part of discussions which have been going on for some time and are by no means finalized."

Today's fixtures

EUROPEAN SUPER CUP: Second leg: Liverpool v Hamburg.

THIRD DIVISION: Shrewsbury Town v Gillingham.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: First division (North): Enderby v Milton Keynes. South: Basingstoke v Folkestone and Shepway.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Cup: Second round replay: Matlock v Morecambe: Runcorn v Frickley.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Slough Town v Leatherhead.

RUGBY UNION: Oxford v Cambridge (at Twickenham, 2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE: Floodlit Competition: semi-final round: St Helens v Salford (7.25).

Rugby Union

An exercise that may end a long search

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Nigel Horton and Alastair Hignell are two members of last season's England XV who will be returning to the selectors' fold when the inter-divisional games are staged next Saturday: London v North, at Sudbury, and South and South-West v Midlands, at Bath. Horton, a lock, will be flying over from Toulouse and Hignell leads Cambridge from full back this afternoon in only his second first class game in many weeks.

Charles Kent, an England centre last season, clearly was not considered quite ready for a return at this level. Horton, it appears, will next be available for the one national trial in early January.

The search for an England No 8 to replace Roger Uttley which greatly exercises the selectors, persists with encouragement given, in three cases out of four, to potential rather than to proven achievement. Ripley got a good press in his inter-regional game, but his younger Park colleague, Mantell, gets the London divisional vote. Rollitt achieved the same sort of acclaim at Exeter, but another young Park player, Scott, who captains England Under-23, is named at No 8 for the South and South-West. The North side includes the younger Moss, of Orrell, rather than the seasoned Dowson, of Wakefield. But the Midlands divisional team, which includes some surprising selections, has Adey, a former cap, at No 8 and not the promising Jeavons.

I am not saying this last preference is a great surprise and, anyway, Jeavons's day, no doubt, will come. But the Midlands have left out Dodge, a young centre who arguably is the best passer and reader of a game in the English midfield, as well as both the Leicester flankers, Kempin and Smith.

Slemen, who won four caps on the left wing last season, and two before that, had been omitted from the North XV in favour of the young England player, Carleton. Old and Young predictably are paired again at halfback. In the South and South-West side Lewis, scrum half with a dual national qualification, advances another step. In London's there is no place on the open side for Mordell, one of the best and most abrasive flankers in the country. The Harlequin, Cooke (another David, like the international centre) has been preferred. Cooke is a fine prospect, but it must have been a close thing.

Thoughts on the northern situation having been set down at some lengths yesterday, I comment further only on the well earned promotion of Butler, a lock from Egremont in Cumbria, and the loyalty of his selectors to Hryshko, who was badly outhooked at Headingley but will now have Cotton on his side. There is no place for the young centre, Burke, but he is another for whom the bell may happily toll in due course.

A perceptive colleague reports that Ball had a cracking all-round inter-regional game, so there is no surprise in his selection for London at stand-off half. Ball went to Canada as first choice for young England, but Palmer was preferred in the international matches. Since then, the pendulum has swung back. Ball's partner will be George, who replaced Peck in the Midlands match at Coventry and is now accommodated in another division. All this seems fair enough for a former Saint of Northampton, now with Rosslyn Park.

The successful London North team have 10 men in their divisional XV, including Demming, who got two tries on the wing. The big and promising lock, Coleclough, is one of four selections from London's South—hailing as he does from Lancashire and living, moreover, in France.

Hignell plays in the south and South-West XV, which, properly includes six of the South Westerners who did so well at Exeter. One of those is the Avon policeman, Parsons, a flank forward, who apparently made his powerful, if unsophisticated, presence felt to considerable effect.

Apart from already noted omissions, the most interesting choice in the Midlands XV is perhaps that of Peck, the young Bedford scrum half, rather than of Gifford. Peck retired from the fray with a leg wound last Saturday, and one gathers that his appearance this week must be in doubt. So also, it seems, is that of Wheeler, who withdrew as captain of Midlands East in the inter-regional game. In view of this, it has been decided that Barrie Corless should now lead his division.

Alistair Hignell, captain of Cambridge University today, who hopes to reclaim his position in the England side.

Regional teams for Saturday

LONDON: C. Ralston (Rosslyn Park; R. Demming (Bedford), N. French (Wasps), D. A. Cooke (Harlequins), D. Wyatt (Bedford); I. Ball (Wasps), I. George (Rosslyn Park); T. Claxton (Harlequins), P. Keith-Roach (Rosslyn Park, capt), K. Cairns (Bedford), A. Rodgers (Bedford), M. Colclough (Angoulême), A. Alexander (Harlequins), N. Mantell (Rosslyn Park), D. H. Cooke (Harlequins). Replacements: K. Bushell (Harlequins), J. Palmer (Bath), M. Conner (Wasps), R. Faircloth (Saracens), A. Wolstenholme (St Luke's), E. Bignell (Blackheath).

NORTH: D. Caplan (Headingley); P. Squires (Harrogate), A. Bond (Broughton Park), A. Maxwell (Headingley), J. Carleton (Orrell); A. Old (Sheffield), M. Young (Gosforth); C. White (Gosforth), P. Hryschko (Wakefield), F. Cotton (Sale), W. Beaumont (Fylde, capt), J. Butler (Egremont), P. Dixon (Gosforth), P. Moss (Orrell), A. Neary (Broughton Park). Replacements: A. Tindle (Northern), M. Slemen (Liverpool), S. Smith (Sale), K. Pacey (Broughton Park), T. Roberts (Gosforth), J. Bell (Middlesbrough).

Referee: L. Prideaux (N Midlands).

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST: A. Hignell (Cambridge University); A. Morley (Bristol), M. Beese (Bath), N. Hunt (Bristol), R. Mogg (Gloucester); J. Leigh (Bristol), S. Lewis (Ebbw Vale); B. Nelmes (Cardiff), J. Lockyer (Exeter, captain), M. Burton (Gloucester), N. Pomphrey (Bristol), S. Boyle (Gloucester), G. Parson (Avon Somerset Police), J. Scott (Rosslyn Park), M. Rafter (Bristol). Replacements: D. Sorrell (Bristol), D. Newman (Bristol), S. Mills (Gloucester), R. Corin (St Ives), C. Mills (Exeter), L. Yandle (St Luke's).

MIDLANDS: W. Hare (Leicester); P. Knee (Coventry), B. Corless (Moseley, captain), G. Evans (Coventry), R. Barnwell (Leicester); M. Cooper (Moseley), I. Peck (Bedford); R. Cowling (Leicester), P. Wheeler (Leicester), W. Greaves (Moseley), R. Field (Moseley), N. Horton (Toulousain), J. Shipsides (Coventry), G. Adey (Leicester), D. Warren (Moseley). Replacements: P. Dodge (Leicester), L. Cusworth (Moseley), C. Gifford (Moseley), T. Corless (Moseley), G. Cox (Moseley), N. Jeavons (Moseley).

Referee: B. Head-Rapson. (Notts, Lincs, Derby).

Cambridge poised to move ahead in series

By Peter West

Those of neutral persuasion may feel that it would be no bad thing for the health of the university rugby match if Oxford, who have lost the five of them in a row, were to stop the rot at Twickenham this afternoon (2.15). This is a theory that ought to win me friends in one place and lose them in the other, where these matters, properly enough, are viewed through spectacles tinted with a different shade of blue.

Cambridge have it firmly in mind to extend their record run of victories, to acquire the Bowring Bowl (handsome trophy in a generous sponsorship) for a second year and, for the first time, to nudge ahead of their rivals in a series going back more than a century. As things stand, both universities have 41 wins to their name. Cambridge, though drawing level eight times, have never managed to get themselves in front.

Other horizons beckon, too. The Cambridge captain, Alastair Hignell, and their All Blacks' wing, Michael O'Callaghan, will both—if their side prevails—equal the record of C. D. (now Judge Sir Carl) Aarvold who played in four winning Cambridge teams.

After some harrowing scores against the first class clubs, both sides have derived encouragement from recent results: Oxford most notably against Stanley's and a re-emergent London Scottish; Cambridge when opposed to Gloucester (virtually at full strength), Steele-Bodger's and Harlequins.

What looks like being one of the more absorbing contest of recent years is given additional flavour by the presence of John Robbie, an Irish international scrum half, who has been described by Windsor Lewis, dean and doyens of Cambridge rugby, as the best freshman to arrive at Grange Road since Michael Gibson. There is also the appearance, or reappearance, at the 11th hour of two key figures, Hignell, for Cambridge, and Gareth Davies, for Oxford.

Thanks to the latest marvels of medical science and skills, we were to see Paul Parker on the Cambridge wing less than a month after a cartilage operation, but he has suffered some reaction since an outing for his college second XV and, with an unselfishness and courage to be applauded, has ruled himself out of the side. Sadly he is thus denied a Blue in his third and, probably, last year. But it is happier news for another cricket Blue. Ian Greig, the brother of Tony, who regularly deputized for an injured Fosh in the centre until moving, with much aplomb, to Parker's position.

Both sides may be relied upon to devise all legitimate means to test the fitness of the late arrivals, none of whom can be thoroughly match-honed. However, even if Oxford's forwards, and Faktor behind them, gives Davies the platform he requires, this accomplished player, one of the leading stand-off halves in Wales, will need to kick with the utmost accuracy and subtlety to discomfit Hignell. The fearless England full back does not make a habit of dropping his catches.

This might be a good moment for an almost annual observation that, whereas Oxford packs rarely fail to live up to expectation on the big occasion and sometimes excel it, those of Cambridge more often do. The Oxford captain, Tim Bryan, seems not averse to painting a broad canvas but it must surely be part of his planning to apply all possible pressure at close quarters through their heavier forwards — a compact front row and a strong back five —and to stifle if they can the obvious potential of the quicksilver Robbie, who is certainly capable of controlling the game. In this last respect there will need to be an important contribution from Oxford's staunch scrum half, from their South African flankers, White and Mitchell (who, at 29, is by some way the oldest on either side) and from Moir, a No 8 whose performances as a freshman betoken a glowing future.

Cambridge must hope that the Welshman, Butler—their one Old Blue at forward—can inspire his colleagues to the sort of effort they achieved against Gloucester. On Sunday Butler was selected to play for Wales B against France B I thought their rucking especially impressive against Steele-Bodger's side and, if they can with something like 35 or 40 per cent of the good ball, they should have the pace, the skill and the experience amongst their backs to do the trick again.

Although wings rarely have the opportunity to exert a vital influence on the outcome of these matches, it would be areeable to gCambridge men if a player, say of O'Callaghan's class, could really embroider the scene.

Oxford

K. Hopkins (Maesteg GS and St Edmund Hall); *R. Hoolahan (Reigate GS and St Edmund Hall), *T. A. Bryan (Hampton GS and St Edmund Hall, captain), A. Watkinson (Belmont Abbey and St Edmund Hall), D. C. Willis (Haberdashers' Aske's and Worcester); W. G. Davies (Gwendreath GS and St Catherine's), S. J. Faktor (Latymer Upper and University); *E. C. Horne (Emanuel and Jesus), B. Light (The Lewis School, Pengam, and St Edmund Hall), *T. P. Enevoldson (Royal GS, Newcastle and Brasenose), R. G. Robinson (Oundle and Lincoln), K. J. Budge (Rossall and Lincoln), D. Mitchell (Cape Town University and St Catherine's), M. J. P. Moir (Ampleforth and Lincoln), *G. White (Diocesan College, Cape Town and University).

Cambridge

*A. J. Hignell (Denstone and Fitzwilliam, captain); *M. W. O'Callaghan (Christchurch Boys HS, N Zealand and Emmanuel), J. S. Davies (Christ College, Brecon and St John's), M. K. Fosh (Harrow and Magdalene), I. Greig (Queen's College Queenstown and Downing); *J. N. F. Breakey (Fettes and Christ's), J. C. Robbie (Dublin HS and Christ's); R. J. Brooman (Merchant Taylor's Northwood and Trinity), K. F. Geoghegan (Gonzaga College, Dublin and King's), P. A. V. Shaw (Queen Elizabeth GS, Wakefield and Downing), J. N. Ford (Millfield and Emmanuel), N. R. M. Heath (Solihull and Downing), S. F. Glanvill (Exeter and Pembroke), *E. T. Butler (Monmouth and Fitzwilliam), R. J. Stead (Radley and Selwyn).

Referee: C. Norling (Wales).

* A Blue.

Cricket

Botham gets life out of dead pitch

Faisalbad, Dec 5.—Ian Botham, of Somerset gave a stout-hearted display of medium-fast bowling to salvage some satisfaction for England's cricketers after a hard day's toil in the sun here today. On a pitch that gave bowlers no encouragement, United Bank scored 210 for four in response to England's first innings total of 284 for one declared. United Bank declared 25 minutes before the close today and by making 11 without loss in their second innings, left England to go into the final day tomorrow with a lead of 85.

The England manager Ken Barrington, summed up the state of the pitch when he said: "I'm told it should start to break up in about a month." It was an assessment that underlined how well Botham had bowled when, in the morning, he started with four successive maidens, took the wicket of young Haroon Rashid and came close to dismissing the experienced Sadiq Mohammad on two or three occassions.

Botham worked willingly despite the lack of response from the pitch and, at times, managed to make the ball lift awkwardly. Downton, the young Kent wicketkeeper, playing only his eighth first-class match, took the odd ball shoulder high.

The bowler's main hope of success was for the batsman to play a poor stroke and Talat Ali, who played in all three Test matches against England in 1973, obliged Gatting in his first over of the tour. Gatting bowled one over while Hendrick and Botham changed ends and Talat turned the second ball into his stumps.

That was eight for one and 15 runs later Rashid fell to Botham. He fended at a lifting ball and Brearley at first slip took an easy catch. When the score reached 104, Cope removed Sadiq for 53 and Irtiza later, for 32. Nasir Valika and Mansoor Akhtar shared an unbroken fifth wicket partnership of 106 before Nasir declared.

ENGLAND XI: First innings, 284 for 1 dec (G. Boycott 123 not out, B. Rose 110 not out)

Second Innings

D. W. Randall, not out	..	4
G. R. J. Roope, not out	..	4
Extras (b 1, n-b 2) ..	..	3
Total (no wkt) ..	..	11

*J. M. Brearley, G. Boycott, M. W. Gatting, I. T. Botham, G. Cope, P. H. Edmonds, P. R. Downton, M. Hendrick to bat.

UNITED BANK: First Innings

Talat Ali, b Gatting ..	..	4
Sadiq Mohammad, c Roope, b Cope ..	..	53
H. Rashid, c Brearley, b Botham	..	8
K. Irtiza, c Botham, b Cope ..	..	32
N. Valika, not out ..	..	53
M. Akhtar, not out ..	..	[illegible]
Extras (b 7, l-b 3, n-b 1)	..	11
Total (4 wkts dec) ..	..	210

S. Pervez, Arrifuddin, A. Hamid, N. Ahmed, S. Bakht did not bat.

BOWLING: Hendrick, 11—3—24—0; Botham, 12—5—26—1; Gatting, [illegible]—1; Cope, 22—8—[illegible]—2; Edmonds, 11—1—[illegible]—0; Boycott, 1—0—1—0.—Reuter.

Soul-destroying life in the 'circus'

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne

While the first of Kerry Packer's international matches was being played here over the weekend, another 22 of his bowmen were up in Rockhampton, a Queensland seaside town, playing in a three-day game. Being 250 miles north of Brisbane, which is the northernmost city where first-class cricket is played in Australia, Rockhampton (population 60,000) seldom has the chance of seeing the best players in action, and appearing there now for a World XI (against yet another Australian XI) was a galaxy of talent.

In batting order the "world" side was Barry Richards, Amiss, Zaheer, Majid, Barlow, Asif, Greig, Procter, Knott, Imran Khan and Underwood. Yet in three full days only 3,000 people went to watch them. If this failure to attract crowds continues, and the people have stayed away in all the four cities where the Packer games have been played so far (Melbourne, Adelaide, Geelong and Rockhampton) the players' enthusiasm is bound to wane. Strangely enough, there is, I think, more interest in England in the rebel series than in Australia.

Richie Benaud one of Mr Packer's chiefs of staff has had this to say: "I'm looking to February 13, the last day of the last "Super Test". Then I'm looking to February 13, 1980, the end of the three-year period over which costs will be judged. Any other perspective is crazy. If we are to judge the series by the first match [that is the first 'Super Test'] it must be the first multi-million dollar business venture which decided its future on the first week's operations."

Those are the words of an astute, albeit deeply committed, observer. The fact remains, though, that however much it is worth in financial terms playing cricket on deserted football grounds and poor pitches must in the long run be a soul-destroying experience. Especially when, as now, it is possible as an Englishman or an Australian to make a lot of money under the established order. By that I mean the best part of £30,000 a year for an Australian cricketer with a regular post and a Test place.

Perhaps as never before Mr Packer feels himself to be a member of a team. This, as well as his pride and his antipathy towards cricket's authority, his defiance and his wealth, may encourage him to support an unprofitable enterprise as he would never normally be prepared to do. Benaud talks about 1980. He has to. "It's all new. There's a lot of new ground to be broken. A lot of things are seemingly different. But I don't believe there's anything basically different from what we've known for 100 years." Yet there are limits beyond which even Mr Packer is unlikely to go.

If this develops, as I am afraid it may, into a fight to the death (certainly the Australian Cricket Board shows not the slightest sign of weakening) in the end the circus is sure to lose. Because of the skill with which the matches are being produced for television (though here in Melbourne the acres of empty stands rather inhibited the producer's freedom) and the persuasiveness of an international team of commentators (Benaud, Trueman, Lawry, Stackpole and Cozier, with Rosenwater to supply the figures), and the publicity being bought and, through the newspapers, given, and also out of curiosity, I shall be surprised if the attendances in Sydney next week, for the second match, are anything like as poor as they have been in Melbourne.

In a year's time, though, when the same players are setting out on the same series of exhibition matches, to be staged on the same grounds, with the public not caring who wins or loses, it is the fight for the Ashes that will have the country by the ears. Mr Packer may have to resort then to canned applause. It is bad news for him that England will be in Australia in a year's time. One of the vital respects in which the promoters of professional golf and tennis have it over Mr Packer, as an entrepreneur of cricket, is that the whole world is theirs. If, like world series cricket, they were confined to the shores of Australia, they and the public would soon be bored.

Only this morning Mr Packer's public relations director said he felt that prices of admission to the Packer matches (just over £4 to the grandstand) were too high. "We have had too many circus-style people in the organization", he said, "telling us the fabulous figures we'd draw. They made statements saying we'd draw one million people through the gate. That will haunt us for a long time. They certainly overstated the whole thing. They just got carried away with the exuberance of the new venture."

I may be wrong, but in no time at all I believe the Packer camp, or at any rate the players in it, will be desperate for an accommodation. Some of them already could be. Yet for someone who talks so freely about compromise, Mr Packer has a conspicuously uncompromising nature. I would like to think that before 1978 is out England and Australia will have their full teams in the field again; that the blood-letting will be over, the quarrels patched up, and that professional cricketers everywhere will be richer than before. But I very much doubt it.

All this will leave a cricketing battlefield, bitterly divided and on which friends are falling out. It has the fervour of a religious war and the same self-justifying attitudes, which suggest in this case, quite unreasonably, that a game owes its players a living. This is going to be a long, unhealthy cricket season in Australia, which has all too little to do with cricket.

To try to diminish the England side even more than he already has, as it re-forms for next year's tour to Australia, it would be no surprise if Mr Packer were to come up with further tempting offers in the coming months. There is talk today of another promising young Australian, Darling, of South Australia, being about to defect. Nothing that has happened in the last fortnight has convinced me, even so, that it is not back across the bridge that the final trudge will be—unless to everyone's disadvantage, especially Mr Packer's present army, the bridge has been irrevocably destroyed.

Northampton sign Mills

Peter Mills, an 18-year-old batsman from Oundle, who is waiting to go up to Cambridge University next autumn, has joined Northamptonshire cricket club staff for next season.

He is a son of John Mills, a former Cambridge University and Warwickshire player. Another new player to sign is John Tilley, a 19-year-old fast bowler from Getton, in Northampton.

Amarnath hopes to be fit for resumption of play

Brisbane, Dec 5.—India are confident that Mohinder Amarnath will be fit to resume the long chase for victory on the fourth day of the first Test match against Australia here tomorrow. Amarnath was undergoing treatment today, a rest day, for the knee injury he received while fielding.

An Indian cricket official said that Amarnath and Vengsarkar, who was hit on the thigh by a ball from Thomson, were responding well to treatment. India, chasing a victory target of 341, were 51 for one at close of play on the third day, having lost Vengsarkar, who was bowled by Clark for one.

Amarnath, 32 not out, and Gavaskar, 15 not out, are India's main hopes, but Simpson, Australia's captain, said he was confident of bowling India out to go one up in the five-Test series. "It's tough getting 341 runs in the last innings of any Test", Simpson said.

Simpson explained why he took Thomson off after only three overs yesterday, when everyone had expected a sustained barrage in the closing overs. Simpson said there was nothing wrong with Thomson, but he just "wasn't clicking".

With the pitch playing well the fast bowlers will find it difficult to make an impression, and the youn gleg spin bowler, Mann, could assert himself.

Mann, making his first Test appearance, took three for 12 in India's first innings and he turned the ball sharply yesterday evening.

SCORES: Australia, 166 (P. Toohey 82; B. S. Bedi 5 for 55) and 327 (R. B. Simpson 89, Toohey 57; Madan Lal 5 for 72): India, 153 (D. Vengsarkar 48, W. Clark 4 for 49) and 51 for one.—Reuter.

Golf

Mrs Uzielli player of the year

By Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent

A touch of irony surrounds the announcement yesterday of the Woman Golfer of the Year, an award made annually by Simpson of Piccadilly, and the only one of its kind confined to women. All the season in women's golf the talk has been of professionalism—would it work, was it desirable, how to make a smooth transition from one to the other? Yet we end up with a champion and the Player of the Year who runs a home and family and who is no more likely than the Queen of Sheba to think of playing golf for money.

No ulterior motive lay behind the choice. It just happened that way. The expenses of playing golf may matter less to her now than to some other competitors, but that rightly played no part either way in her selection. The only other rival to Angela Uzielli was a girl, Vanessa Marvin, some 17 years her junior, who has come to prominence with startling suddenness. In any other year someone who had won the English title, been runner-up in the British and third in the Open stroke play, not to mention leading amateur in the European tournament, sponsored by Colgate, might well have earned the title.

By chance this was a year when Miss Marvin had to share most of the honours with another. In addition to being British champion, and semi-finalist in the English, Mrs Uzielli found the time, backed by a powerful team of child-sitters, to win the Astor Salver with a score that included a record 69, the Roehampton Gold Cup, the Mother and Daughters, the Wentworth Scratch Cup, the Berkshire championship, not to mention other events in which she was runner-up.

It was a remarkable run and she has two other attributes. She has served a long apprenticeship in the game, and not only does she enjoy playing, but she gives the appearance of enjoying it. Two years ago when she was 35, she had not played in an international match, and it was only after someone dropped out that she found a place in the 1976 England team after losing the final of the English to Lynn Harrold. Living in Norfolk, of which championship her mother, Mrs B. T. Carrick was in innumerable finals, she did not have, perhaps, much opportunity to develop her game.

It was after her marriage to John Uzielli, who captained Oxford in 1960, that her game began to flower. Moving to the London area she joined the Berkshire club and encouraged by Keith Macdonald, the professional, played regularly and after winning the British title, was made a life member. She is not the greatest swinger of a club ever to have become champion, but her length and accuracy were for years underrated.

Her attitude to her short game resembles in one respect the advice put out recently by the English Golf Union to aspiring internationals. Choosing her time carefully, as any club member must, she will play, say, the last three holes of the Blue course with six balls—only two more than a four-ball—setting herself in that instance a par of 13 for each ball. When it comes to putting, she again practices with intent. Using a number of balls, she refuses to allow herself to take three putts; if one of them does, the whole lot have to go back to the beginning.

Her attitude to golf is rare, these days, although there have been past champions who have brought a balanced gaiety to the game. She refuses to be overawed by the occasion. This sometimes worries selectors, but her record makes it clear that playing because one enjoys the game is not necessarily a barrier to hard competition. Behind the light-heartedness and the ever-present possibility that she might burst into laughter, lies no light-headedness but a determination to succeed stronger than any other influence in her golfing make-up, except perhaps, the determination not to allow the game to become a misery.

Personally I cannot wait to see her at Apawamis outside New York next August in the Curtis Cup match. The faces of some solemn young Amazons, pausing on the way to the American professional ranks, as they first encounter her personality, should be a study.

A shining example of a fun loving sportswoman: Mrs Uzielli with her award yesterday.

Athletics

Foster in low key until high summer

By Cliff Temple
Athletics Correspondent

Brendan Foster, the Olympic 10,000 metres bronze medal winner and national cross-country champion, has had a change of heart about his winter racing plans and will now run only a handful of low-key events before next summer. This means he will not after all be competing in the International Athletes Club five and a half miles cross-country race, sponsored by Philips, at Crystal Palace on Saturday. It is also very unlikely, he says, that he will even defend his English national title next March.

"I have come to realize that my preparation for the 5,000 and 10,000 metres in next year's Commonwealth Games and European championships in August must take precedence over everything else", he told me yesterday. "I have no injuries, and no illness problems at present, and my training is going extremely well. However, it is mainly long, steady milage and I am not really attuned to racing at the moment.

"My sixteenth place in the Gateshead international event 16 days ago did not really reflect how well things are going, and the pressures of being expected to race well all year round are beginning to get to me. It is the easiest thing in the world to stay in shape all the time, but not if you want to win the big races in the summer."

In contrast with other athletes, like Tony Simmons, a fellow Olympic 10,000 metres finalist, and Bernard Ford, who seem to thrive on frequent racing over country, road and track, Foster finds that his best results come after a sustained and concentrated period of training in preparation for a six to eight-week peak in the summer. But because of his sharp competitive nature, he also finds it difficult to brush aside relatively unimportant defeats in the off season.

"I will run in a four-mile road race at Ipswich on New Year's eve, because I happen to be on holiday in the area, and in a cross-country race at Belfast on January 14. But I will not be running hard until the AAA national road relay in April."

Foster's attitude demonstrates his determination to do well in both of next year's main summer championships and to avoid the accusation levelled at British distance runners that they sometimes leave their best performances behind them in the winter mud.

Mottram earns final place against Vilas

Christopher Mottram, of Britain, who yesterday beat Eddie Dibbs, of the United States, the second eed, in the South African Open tennis championships at Johannesburg, today reached the final by beating South Africa's Frew McMillan, 6—2, 1—6, 8—6.

Mottram was in command early on, but lost his touch in the second set. Both players were erratic in the final set. Mottram lost his service twice, but broke McMillan's three times to make sure of his place in tomorrow's final.

In the other semi-final round match today, Guillermo Vilas, of Argentina, beat Stan Smith, of the United States, 6—2, 6—4. This was a poor match and Smith, out of touch in many parts of his game, never extended Vilas, the No 1 seed.

The Argentine left-hander cracked passing shots out of Smith's reach with regularity. Occasionally, when in trouble, he whipped shots straight at Smith's backhand and they were either netted by Smith or went straight past him. Smith dropped service twice in the first set and once in the second, but Vilas held every time.

A welcome reappearance by Virginia Wade, playing her first tournament in Britain since winning the Wimbledon title in the summer, and an anticipated challenge from her old rival Billie Jean King should be enough to ensure the success of the first Bremer Cup competition at Crystal Palace this week.

Wade and King are seeded to meet in Sunday's final, but at least two other world-class players can have a vital say in the outcome. Betty Stove, the 32-year-old Dutch No 1 who lost to Wade in the Wimbledon final, is keen to get a rematch and Renata Tomanova, the brilliant Czechoslovak girl, is always capable of producing match-winning performances against the best.

QUALIFYING COMPETITION: First round: Miss K. Brasher beat Miss F. Moffitt, 7—5, 6—3; Miss D. Jevans beat Mrs K. Cancy, 6—2, 6—1; Miss G. Molesworth beat Miss J. Durie, 7—5, 6—0.

Hospitals rugby cup

Hospitals Cup draw: First round: January 10: University College v Middlesex, St George's v Royal Free. January 12: Guy's v Charing Cross, King's College v St Thomas's. Second round: January 24: St Bartholomew's (holders) v University College or Middlesex, St Mary's v St George's or Royal Free. January 26: London v Guy's or Charing Cross, Westminster v King's College or St Thomas's.

Wright joins Park

Ian Wright, a former England stand-off half, has joined Rosslyn Park, the club he left eight years ago to join Northampton.

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SPORT

Racing

True Wish can bring Dickinson's hopes to fulfilment

By Michael Seely

Ladbrokes opened a book yesterday on the Irish Sweeps Hurdle at Leopardstown on December 27. They make Decent Fellow their favourite at 6-1. Meladon, the Triumph Hurdle winner, and Rare Gold are joint second choices in the market at 7-1. Toby Balding's talented four-year-old Decent Fellow has 10st 10lb and his narrow Cheltenham conqueror, Meladon, has not unnaturally been allotted 1lb more. Penalties are at the discretion of the handicapper and are given nearer the day, but it would not be unnatural to expect both horses to be asked to carry about 5lb extra for their recent successes.

At Wetherby this afternoon True Wish is a confident selection to win the Barnsley Novices' Steeplechase. Tony Dickinson's stable is just starting to swing into form and Gay Spartan earned himself a 33-1 quotation for the Cheltenham Gold Cup when winning at Hexham yesterday. And judged on his second to Another Dolly in the Embassy Premier qualifier at Cheltenham, True Wish is sure to start a short-priced favourite.

But there is more to it than that. Michael Dickinson describes True Wish as "the quickest jumper I have ever sat on". And when you think of the brilliant fencers that have emerged from Gisburn in the past few years, that is some compliment. I realized the truth of the jockey's assertion when watching a video recording of the Cheltenham race recently. True Wish is a natural. As hungry for his fences as a tiger for his prey, he is over them like a flash and away into his stride like lightning.

His one and only error at the open ditch opposite the stands was an extraordinary sight. The six-year-old hit the fence so hard that Dickinson had both legs on the same side of the horse's neck immediately after the error. But it hardly checked True Wish's momentum as he continued bowling merrily along in the lead. At the second fence from home, Another Dolly's superior fitness started to tell, and the gelding landed on the flat with his race already won. But True Wish got his second wind in the last hundred yards and finished strongly to snatch second place.

Of his opponents, Arthur Stephenson's Brother Will won a small race at Sedgefield. But the biggest threat may come from King Commander.

At Newton Abbot, Tim Forster's Toy Flag looks the best bet of the afternoon, in the Land's End Handicap Steeplechase. Forster is turning out winners like clockwork, but the Wantage trainer and his jockey, Graham Thorner, give me nightmares. If I ever find an apparent handicap certainty, Forster magically produces a rabbit out of his hat to beat it. On the other hand, if I go for one of his horses, disaster always strikes. But Toy Flag is chock full of ability, and despite his 10 years seems better than ever this season. An easy winner of his only two races so far, I expect to see Toy Flag prove too good for Craigue House, Jimmy Miff and Ive Tree.

STATE OF GOING (official): Wetherby: Good. Newton Abbot: Good to soft. Tomorrow: Ayr: Good to firm. Leicester: Steeplechase, good to firm; Hurdles, good.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: King George VI Steeplechase, Kempton Park: Floating Pound, The Dealer, Outpoint. All engagements (dead): Comfortable, Fairly Fly, Rhondda Grey.

Sangster—O'Brien syndicate use weight of money to disprove an old a ;age

Why Manx men have their tails up

Most of the talk at the December sales last week concerned the outstanding success achieved by Robert Sangster, Vincent O'Brien and their associates. Irreverently known as the "Manx Mafia", this highly organized and wealthy team have apparently proved what was previously thought to be impossible—that weight of money alone can buy success in horseracing.

This success has been achieved by a new concept which has shattered previous theories. By careful buying at the Keeneland Select Sales and elsewhere, the team have been able to outbid all rivals. All the profits foretold doom for this venture. It is well known that classic winners are not purchased by money alone. Grundy, for example, cost Dr Carlo Vittadini only 11,000 guineas as a yearling. The Newmarket Bloodstock Agency secured Wollow, winner of the 2,000 Guineas, the Eclipse Stakes and the Benson & Hedges Gold Cup for 7,000 guineas. It is only now that the point of Sangster's operation is becoming apparent.

The name of the game is stallion promotion. 1977 was a bonanza year for Ballydoyle. The Minstrel has been syndicated for $9m. At the moment it is 90 per cent certain that Alleged will stay in training next year, as the United States ban on imports from England and Ireland is unlikely to be lifted in time for the Prix de l'Arc De Triomphe winner to start covering mares in America in February. But negotiations for the syndication of Alleged are well under way and an educated guess would be that $7m would be the value of this brilliant racehorse.

Artaius is standing in Ireland with a capital value of £2.25m placed on his handsome head. The Waterford Crystal Mile winner, Be My Guest, has been syndicated for £800,000. The mind boggles at the sums of money involved.

But the whole project is a highly sophisticated marketing operation with no stone left unturned to advertise and push their products. It would not matter if Sangster and O'Brien were producing motor cars or stallions. Their combined brains and powers of organization would produce the same result.

The operation does not depend on the sensational kind of success achieved this year. It is the limitation of losses that is the keynote. And that is why they buy only the best, spending millions of dollars on yearlings by such sires as Secretariat, Northern Dancer and Nijinsky. This vast expenditure has the effect of reducing their risks to a minimum as the horses who do not make the grade on the racecourse are still worth a great deal judged on their pedigrees alone.

Yesterday, Mr Sangster made the astonishing statement that, during the past two years he has never sold a colt at a loss. "Of course I sometimes lose money when I cull my mares. I sold 35 foals and mares for a quarter of a million pounds at the December sales. And I made only one purchase, a full sister to Vaguely Noble called Vive la Reine who is in foal to Vitiges. I bought her for 53,000 guineas at which price she was cheap. If the American ban had not been in force she would have fetched double and that must be good business."

At Keeneland in January Sangster is selling eight colts that failed to make the grade as two-year-olds this year. "And they will all fetch good prices and win races in the United States". And what of next year? At the moment for all their costly purchases in 1976, only Try My Best seems to stand out. But as Sangster points out it was the same situation last year. The Minstrel had won the Dewhurst Stakes, but Alleged, Artaius and Be My Guest were lightly raced and unknown quantities.

And who can say that the same thing may not occur in 1978. "Look at Santon", the Isle of Man-based millionaire said. "The Round Table colt was an easy winner at The Curragh in August. He disappointed when odds on for the National Stakes, but had a temperature of 103 that evening". Sangster pointed out that they still know his ability at home and that there is no reason why the colt should not turn out to be next year's Artaius, for example. Ballydoyle is also sheltering two colts that have shown great ability on the gallops, but have yet to appear in public. One is a half brother to Youth by Vaguely Noble, the other is out of the dam of Nonoalco and sired by Nijinsky.

Michael Motion, one of our leading bloodstock agents, is certain that this pattern is here to stay. "Of course they are not going to produce Derby winners every year. But look at their outlets and the strength of their marketing operation. How can they fail? I bought the two highest-priced foals at the sales for export to Australia. Everyone says I'm mad, but I'm not. I'm doing the thing on a smaller scale, but I'm still reducing my clients' risks. With Sangster's and O'Brien's business acumen allied to O'Brien's genius as a trainer and Piggott's judgment as a jockey they can't go wrong."

These facts need not discourage our leading trainers. Peter Walwyn, Dick Hern, Henry Cecil, Michael Easterby to name but a few will continue to turn out classic winners. Mrs McArdy was bought for a song. Any well bred animal, costing between 15,000 and 40,000 guineas has every chance of winning group one races. It is simply that as a business enterprise the Sangster type of operation is here to stay.

Mr Sangster is the first to admit that luck as well as judgment has been on their side. But the fact remains that he and O'Brien have beaten the Americans to the punch. And on the other side of the Atlantic they are now beginning to realize it. A group of rich Texans was spending fortunes on brood mares at the equivalent of the December sales at Keeneland. Prices were 60 per cent up on last year. At least two syndicates have already been formed on Wall Street, now that the Americans have understood the kind of purchasing power needed to succeed in this sphere. Sangster and O'Brien have blazed a trail. And now others will be hot on their heels.

Michael Seely

Lucky Wednesday for stud in Yorkshire

Lucky Wednesday, who gained three wins in the summer for Henry Cecil including the Prince of Wales's Stakes, is to take up stallion duties next year at the Norton Grove stud, Malton, Yorkshire. The four-year-old brown son of Roi Soleil, will stand at £700, no foal no fee, under the management of Mick Easterby

O'Neill reaches his 50 in fast time

John O'Neill, in his first season as a freelance, gained a fast half-century of winners this season on David Tudor, the first leg of a 23-1 treble for him at Southwell yesterday. Josh Gifford still holds the record for the fastest 50, registered in one of his four championship seasons.

Newton Abbot programme

12.15 ST IVES STEEPLECHASE (Div I : Novices : £890 : 5f)

2 2-p3 Bell-amye, D. H. Jones, 6-11-10 .... D. Cartwright
5 f Castle Tavern, R. Keenor, 6-11-10 .... S. May
7 40 Dark Sensation, A. Hartnoll, 7-11-10 .... N. Wakley
9 00-0400 Fixby Gold, W. Williams, 7-11-10 .... —
13 0- Gay Heath, A. Hobbs, 6-11-10 .... P. Hobbs 5
15 02-4 Inglewood, J. P. Thorner, 9-11-10 .... Mr A. Waltor 7
18 Monkstown, H. Handel, 9-11-10 .... —
19 0 Nordani, H. Willis, 6-11-10 .... C. Brown 5
21 ff3 Not Lightly, T. Forster, 6-11-10 .... G. Thorner
26 0-0 Tiger Trap, W. Fisher, 8-11-10 .... R. Atkins
29 11001-2 Chuckles Hansel, D. Barons, 5-11-7 .... R. Loach

12.45 ST IVES STEEPLECHASE (Div II : £888 : 5f)

1.15 MOUSEHOLE HURDLE (Handicap : £459 : 2m 150yd)

1.45 LAND'S END CHASE (Handicap : £1,209 : 3m 2f 100yd)

2.15 ST JUST HURDLE (Div I : 3-y-o Novices : £725 : 2m 150yd)

12 000 Miss Chevaleen, N. Ayliffe, 11-0 .... M. Ayliffe 7
13 0 Miss Hillside, W. Williams, 11-0 .... R. Millman 7
14 0 Mr Bunny, J. Old, 11-0 .... C. Candy
15 ppf Renee Rocket, G. Small, 11-0 .... S. G. Knight 5
18 0 Tepid Tears, J. Bradley, 11-0 .... M. Williams
19 Town Flirt, W. Sleeman, 11-0 .... Mr G. Sleeman 7
20 Vardes, H. Payne, 11-0 .... P. Hobbs
21 42 Whinney Brae, G. Kindersley, 11-0 .... B. Champion
22 White Lancer, J. Wright, 11-0 .... G. McCourt
23 Woburn, C. Bewicke, 11-0 .... J. King

13-8 Thomsons Policy, 15-8 Mount Pelle, 5-1 Whinney Brae, 9-1 Woburn, 10-1 Mr Bunny, 14-1 Cider Drinker, 16-1 others.

2.45 HELSTON HURDLE (Handicap : £1,164 : 2m 150yd)

2 p Aurige, I. Gibbons, 4-12-4 .... P. Leando 7
4 f-11220 Gently Does It (C-D), L. Kennard, 5-11-6 .... G. McCourt

3.15 ST JUST HURDLE (Div II : Part 1 : £645 : 2m 150yd)

3.45 ST JUST HURDLE (Div II : Part 2 : £644 : 2m 150yd)

Newton Abbot selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.15 Chuckles Hansel. 12.45 Good Prospect. 1.15 Meer Lady. 1.45 TOY FLAG is specially recommended. 2.15 Mount Pelle. 2.45 Faculty. 3.15 Rial. 3.45 Lucky Runner.

Wetherby selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.30 Star Speaker. 1.0 True Wish. 1.30 Royal Major. 2.0 Tartan Tutor. 2.30 Nice Palm. 3.0 Narvik.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

1.30 The Cocinthian.

Wetherby programme

12.30 SHEFFIELD HURDLE (Handicap : £433 : 2½m)

1 400-000 Fogbound, S. Norton, 6-12-0 .... G. Graham 5
4 00-1 Gaish Bird, C. Tinkler, 6-11-6 .... C. Tinkler
5 03000-f Proud Empire, P. Bevan, 6-11-6 .... D. Sunderland
6 10000-2 Rust Borough, D. Doyle, 6-11-5 .... J. Doyle
8 04-0444 Enniskillen, R. E. Peacock, 6-11-2 .... Mr K. Brisbourne 5
9 403000- Say Boy, T. Kersey, 6-11-1 .... G. Kersey 7
13 20-0333 Despondent, R. Page, 5-10-6 .... Mr R. Page
14 0-4f000 Polo Boy, W. Charles, 6-10-6 .... M. Charles 5
15 r00f- Happy Call, A. Potts, 6-10-5 .... I. Watkinson
17 032-004 Star Speaker, Mrs R. Lomax, 6-10-9 .... —

1.0 BARNSLEY STEEPLECHASE (Novices : £625 : 2m 50yd)

1.30 LEEDS HURDLE (Div I : 4-y-o novices : £504 : 2m)

2.0 HARROGATE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap : £734 : 3m 100yd)

2.30 RUFFORTH STEEPLECHASE (Handicap : £735 : 2m 50yd)

3.0 LEEDS HURDLE (Div II : £496 : 2m)

Southwell results

3.15 (3.17) EAKRING HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o: £340: 2m)
Nellie's Lad, ch g, by Milan—Wise Nellie (Jas Thom), 10-12
J. J. O'Neill (evens fav) 1
Royal Gain Mr J. Cambidge (25-1) 2
Crazy Harvest .. S. Hives (10-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 4-1 Chevaleen (f), Stalbec, 9-1 Happy Trio (4th), 20-1 Roaming Minstrel, 50-1 Avenbury Lad, Game King, Highdown, Peter Wolf. 11 ran.
TOTE: Win, 31p; places, 11p, 44p, 42p; dual forecast, £2.91. J. Skilling, at Malton. 12l, hd. Nashita did not run.
TOTE DOUBLE: Eagle Feather, Saragusa, £18.30. TREBLE: Harrys Fizzale, Captain Ears, Nellie's Lad, £13.70.

Hexham

1.0 (1.3) BATTLE HILL HURDLE (Handicap: £333: 2m)
Star Speaker, b m, by Philemon—Speak Speak (M. Carr), 6-9-12
Mr M. Brisbourne (9-4 fav) 1
Diesdos .... R. Lamb (12-1) 2
Highland Jig .... K. Gray (6-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 4-1 Dam Water (4th), 9-2 Priestcroft Star, 10-1 Waterville, 14-1 Sovereign Gold, 16-1 Aucklander (p). 8 ran.
TOTE: Win, 98p; places, 16p, 22p, 16p; dual forecast, £3.42. Mrs R. Lomax, at Baydon, Wilts. No bid for the winner.

1.30 (1.51) HENCOTES STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £716: 3m)
Gay Spartan, b g, by Spartan General—Copper Lace (M. Armstrong), 6-12-0
M. Dickinson (11-10 fav) 1
King Con .... Mr P. Craggs (3-1) 2

Slane Lady, ch m, by Escort II—Lady Steelpoint (J. Richardson), 11-11-3 ...... K. Gray (9-2) 1
Super Chant .. Mr G. Dunn (6-1) 2
Mounthooly .. R. Barry (6-4 fav) 3
ALSO RAN: 4-1 Lord Brae (b), 12-1 Golden Days (f), 20-1 Royal Gift (4th) and 33-1 Fish Farmer. 7 ran.
TOTE: Win, 66p; places, 15p, 22p; dual forecast, 78p. T. Baron, at Northallerton. 5l, 16l. Fair View did not run.

2.30 (2.34) PRIESTLANDS HURDLE (Handicap: £562: 2m)
Flame Bird, gr g, by Birdbrook—Ablaze (Mrs P. Bell), 6-11-1
K. Gray (9-1) 1
Jane Again .. P. A. Charlton (5-2) 2
The Tinker .. C. Hawkins (13-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Tommys Hope (4th), 4-1 Meldrette, 14-1 Tel Brig (f). 6 ran.

Boxing

Smith must keep Magri out of happy hunting rounds

By Srikumar Sen

If Charlie Magri, of Stepney, wins the British flyweight title, vacated by John McCluskey earlier this year, at the Albert Hall tonight he will become the fastest man to win a British championship. He will have achieved that feat in three contests in two months of professional boxing. And he could be back in the ring in three months to challenge Franco Udella, of Italy, for the European title.

Magri is an exciting boxer to watch and could put lift back into this weight which at times seemed like fading away. The title has been contested only three times in the last 10 years and is being staged in London after 22 years. As a Geordie friend used to tell me "What I like about you is that there are not many people your size much bigger!" There are not many people their size much smaller in this country.

But first Magri has to ben Dave Smith, of Eltham. Smith knows Magri of old, having been stopped by him in their amateur days, and fully expects Magri to do the chasing, although these days a little cautiously. Smith is a determined and upright boxer and is more than able to jab his way out of trouble and on this occasion he should still be moving after the two rounds in which Magri's other two opponents, Neil McLaughlin and Bryn Griffiths, fell.

The result will begin to look more and more respectable for Smith the further he draws Magri away from his happy hunting rounds, though I do not think that will get him off the hook that put McLaughlin away. Unfortunately for Smith he does not have the punch of the Russian, Tkachenko, or the Canadian, Clyde, to stop Magri, which is the best way to beat him. All the same, it will be interesting to see Magri's pace after the third.

Smith is unbeaten in seven bouts. He drew with McLaughlin in his fifth bout, but beat him on a cut in their next meeting. In Magri's meeting with McLaughlin the Stepney man looked in a different class. Magri remains uncannily reticent as a man who knows his own abilities should be; Smith and his manager are more forthcoming. Smith says: "I have never been more confident about any bout as this one". And his manager: "I agree that Magri is an extremely good fighter, but people underate Smith."

Michael Barrett, the promoter, has put on an exciting bill tonight even though the light-middleweight, Jimmy Batten, who was to have met Elisha Obed, has had to withdraw because of an elbow injury. Instead, Mr Barrett has brought in Colin Powers, the new British light-welterweight champion, who faces Rudy Barro, an experienced Filipino from California. Barro has stopped Andy Price in two rounds and been stopped by Price in five. He has also met three world champions in 10-rounders and lost and been knocked out in the first round by Saensak Muangsurin, the former Thai kick-boxer. But for all that Barro can be dangerous in the early rounds. Powers, who has faced a variety of opposition abroad should win but it will be interesting to see how he copes with such a widely travelled man as Barro.

Motor racing

Grovewood prize for young Australian

By John Blunsden

An Australian driver who came to Europe this year to further his racing career, has been adjudged the most promising talent from Britain and the Commonwealth to have emerged during the past season.

He is 24-year-old Bruce Allison, from Brisbane. In London last night he received from Stirling Moss the major Grovewood Motor Racing Award for 1977, worth £1,000. Allison drove in the group eight Shellsport championship under a double handicap. Lack of finance meant that he had to miss several races, while he could only afford a formula 5,000 car for a series which in the main was dominated by formula one cars. Nevertheless, he took pole position three times, lowered the Brands Hatch lap record, and finished fifth in the championship. Next year he will be taking part in the British Racing and Sports Car Clubs 12 race formula one championship—this time with a proper formula one car.

The independent Grovewood panel, chosen by the Guild of Motoring Writers, has awarded second prize this year to 25-year-old Stephen South, from Harrow Weald, who has emerged from the ranks of formula Ford to become one of Britain's brightest formula three stars during the past year, winning the Vandervell F.3 championship with a March.

Philip Bullman, 22, from Brentwood, has taken the third prize for a series of impressive victories

Bloodstock sales

Pattemore makes another successful Ascot foray

Stuart Pattemore, a west country trainer, is becoming well-known for his spending forays to the Ascot sales. In June he bought Kent's Mill, a rising steeplechaser, for 9,400 guineas; yesterday he went to 10,000 guineas to secure a useful handicap hurdler, Night Messenger, the day's top price.

Pattemore was delighted after his purchase. "I didn't expect to get him so cheaply," he said. Night Messenger, a winner at Warwick last week and of two other races over timber, will now be aimed at fences.

"He's the ideal type," Pattemore said. This five-year-old was bought for an undisclosed patron of Pattemore's Somerset stable. Pattemore is still awaiting the result of a blood test on Kent's Mill.

Kent's Mill was an odds on favourite at Wincanton last week after a fine performance in the Heinz Steeplechase at Ascot (where he would have been third had he not unshipped his rider at the last) but had to take a dope test after trailing home well beaten.

Another happy buyer, well short of the figure he was prepared to pay, was a Turkish stud owner, Elyas Coka, who went to 8,200 guineas for Strange Love, an American-bred three-year-old. Strange Love won twice for Peter Walwyn on the flat this year and is now bound for stud duties in his owner's home country.

"We have little North American blood in Turkey" Mr Coka said. "He will be a valuable addition to my other American-bred stallion, Royal Ride." A prolific sprint winner here before Mr Coka took him to Turkey, Royal Ride is now leading sire of two-year-olds in his new home.

Marathon

BALTIMORE, Maryland: 1, G. Bjorklund, 2hr 13min 46sec; 2, D. Cloeter; 3, S. Robinson; 4, R. Hill (GB).

Tennis

ADELAIDE: South Australian tournament: First round: C. Dibley beat J. Lloyd (GB), 6—3, 6—3; J. Marks beat R. Carmichael (France), 7—6, 6—7, 6—1; T. Gorman (US) beat J. Norbeck (Sweden), 6—4, 6—1; M. Anderson beat C. Casa (France), 6—3, 7—5; H. Pfister (US) beat B. Drewitt, 7—6, 6—2; E. Friendler (US) beat J. Bartlett, 7—6, 6—3; T. Clements beat S. Carnahan (US), 7—6, 1—6, 6—4; J. Holladay (US) beat J. Andrew (Venezuela), 6—1, 6—3; T. Rocavert beat D. Palm (Sweden), 6—4, 6—4.

Ice hockey

WORLD ASSOCIATION: Houston Aeros 5, Cincinnati Stingers 2; Birmingham Bulls 5, Indianapolis Racers 0; Edmonton Oilers 3, Winnipeg Jets 2. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Minnesota North Stars 4, New York Rangers 4; Buffalo Sabres 6, Detroit Red Wings 1; Pittsburgh Penguins 4, Washington Capitals 3; Boston Bruins 3, Toronto Maple Leafs 1; Vancouver Canucks 6, Chicago Black Hawks 2.

Golf

LARGO, Florida: Mixed team tournament: 270: J. Pate and H. Stacy, 61, 70, 69, 70; 271: C. Strange and N. Lopez, 69, 65, 69, 68; 275: A. Palmer and S. Palmer, 69, 69, 70, 67; A. Bean and S. O'Connor, 69, 70, 68, 68; T. Purtzer and S. Post, 67, 72, 67, 69; 276: W. Armstrong and B. Slone, 69, 73, 66, 69; 277: J. Rodriguez and J. A. Washam.

Early rallies catch up on Robinson

Ian Robinson, the No 2 seed, was knocked out of the British amateur closed squash championship, at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, on Sunday night, losing the last match of his round robin group to a 21-year-old Loughborough College student, John Le Lievre.

He owed his recovery to determination and Robinson's rapidly failing stamina. Le Leivre had not been particularly devastating, but he was steady and the effect of earlier long rallies eventually told on Robinson.

FINAL SERIES: J. Leslie (Buckinghamshire) beat B. O'Connor (Kent), 9—4, 9—4, 9—3; J. Kingston (Nottinghamshire) beat H. Cherlin (Middlesex), 7—9, 9—7, 9—6, 9—10, 10—8; J. Le Lievre (Guernsey) beat I. Robinson (Yorkshire), 4—9, 6—9, 9—6, 9—0, 9—3; J. Roe (Nottinghamshire) beat R. Johnson (Surrey), 6—9, 9—6, 9—6, 9—7; P. Kenyon (Lancashire) beat A. Dwyer (Sussex), 9—4, 9—1, 9—6; S. Courtney (Glamorgan) beat P. Hughes (Lancashire), 10—8, 9—6, 3—9, 9—1; J. Duckworth (Lancashire) beat D. McArthur (Surrey), 4—5, 2—9, 9—7, 9—3; J. Richardson (Surrey) beat G. Briars (Norfolk) 9—5, 9—1, 5—9, 4—9, 9—4.

Stragglers arrive

Auckland, Dec 5.—Five stragglers in the round the world yacht race—Japy-Hermes (France), Neptune (France), B and B Italia (Italy), Debenhams (Britain) and Tielsa (Holland)—arrived here this weekend. The French sloop, 33 Export, has been confirmed as the stage winner on corrected time. But a Dutch boat, Flyer, is the overall race leader, followed by King's Legend of Britain.—Agence France-Presse.

Hockey

NEW DELHI: Charity match: Nehru Tournament XI 3, England and Spain (Combined) 0.

Law Report December 5 1977

Court of Appeal

Firm of solicitors with 'unqualified person' recovers costs

Hudgell, Yeates & Co v Watson

Before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Bridge and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgments delivered Nov 30]

Where a firm of solicitors was acting for a defendant in a High Court action and a partner in the firm inadvertently failed to renew his practising certificate for part of the time during which the firm was so acting and was therefore an "unqualified person" within the meaning of section 18 of the Solicitors Act, 1957, the firm was not precluded from recovering their professional charges from the defendant for the period during which the partner was unqualified since sections 18 and 23 concern the "unqualified person" in a personal capacity and in this case the "unqualified person" had taken no part in the matter involving the defendant.

The Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Waller dissenting, allowed an appeal by Mr John Watson, of Ruxley, Sidcup, Kent, from the judgment of Judge White at Woolwich County Court awarding the plaintiffs, Hudgell, Yeates & Co, a firm of solicitors, £575 with interest, the balance of their charges for work done between January, 1973, and April, 1974, less £49 deduction in respect of a finding of negligence in certain of the trial work, to the extent of ordering a new trial to determine the amount of the deduction. The court, Lord Justice Bridge dissenting, dismissed Mr Watson's appeal on his claim that the solicitors could not recover their costs on the ground that one partner in the firm had failed to renew his practising certificate.

The Partnership Act, 1890, provides by section 34: "A partnership is in every case dissolved by the happening of any event which makes it unlawful for the business of the firm to be carried on or for the members of the firm to carry it on in partnership."

The Solicitors Act, 1957, provides by section 18: "(1) No unqualified person shall act as a solicitor, or as such sue out any writ or process, or commence, carry on or defend any action, suit or other proceeding, in the name of any other person or in his own name, in any court of civil or criminal jurisdiction. . . . (2) If any person contravenes the provisions of this section, he shall—(b) be incapable of maintaining any action for any costs in respect of anything done by him in the course of so acting. . . ." By section 23: "No costs in respect of anything done by any unqualified person acting as a solicitor shall be recoverable in any action, suit or matter by any person whomsoever."

Mr Watson in person; Mr Peter Irvin for the solicitors; Mr Alastair Hill as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE BRIDGE said that the solicitors sued to recover their costs incurred in conducting litigation on behalf of Mr Watson in a High Court action in which he was the defendant. The solicitors acted for him in those proceedings from their commencement until December, 1973. In June, 1973, and April, 1974, the solicitors delivered bills of costs, and on May 29, 1974, they began proceedings in Woolwich County Court claiming their costs, less £50 paid on account. Mr Watson served a defence and counterclaim in alleging that the solicitors had been negligent in the work they did for him.

Judge White, while in the main rejecting the case of negligence found that the solicitors had been negligent in one respect—a procedural error by the managing clerk Mr Frost—and deducted £49 from the claim and gave judgment for the balance, with interest.

His Lordship considered the facts and the submissions, and said that as the court could not put the matter right he would allow the appeal to the extent of ordering a retrial limited to the issue of the quantum of damage flowing from the solicitors' negligence as found which would determine the proper amount to be deducted from the bill of costs.

His Lordship said that Mr Watson had taken a further objection under section 18 of the Solicitors Act, 1957. During the hearing he had discovered that the name of Mr Laurence Arthur Smith, a partner in the plaintiff firm, did not appear in the 1973 *Law List*. The solicitors produced Mr Smith's practising certificate for 1973 to the judge who held that to be a complete answer. But everyone overlooked that in fact the certificate was not issued until May 2, 1973. It was now common ground that from the date when the solicitors were instructed until May 2 Mr Smith held no practising certificate and was therefore not qualified pursuant to section 1 of the Solicitors Act.

In the Court of Appeal Mr Watson, by leave, added to his defence the allegations that Mr Smith was not qualified to act as a solicitor for the purposes of the Solicitors Act and that the solicitors were not entitled to render him an account for work carried out by them or to recover any costs.

Mr Smith did not at any time play any personal part in the High Court litigation or assume any personal responsibility for it. He worked at a different office from that from which all business relevant to Mr Watson's affairs was conducted. Did his lack of a practising certificate preclude the solicitors from recovering costs in respect of work done for Mr Watson before May 2, 1973?

The only direct authority was the Irish Court of Appeal case of *Martin v Sherry* (IR [1905] 2 KB 62). A father and son, both solicitors, were working together when the son inadvertently failed to renew his practising certificate in due time. While the son was unqualified, the father acted in litigation for the successful plaintiff. The defendant sought to resist an order for costs against him under a provision corresponding to section 23 of the 1957 Act on the ground that the father and son were partners. The court held that the defence failed on the ground that there was in fact no partnership between the father and the son.

Both Mr Hill and Mr Irvin had submitted that sections 18(2) (b) and 23 should be construed as applying only to personal acts of the uncertificated partner; but so to construe the words seemed to fly in the face of the fundamental principle of agency applicable to partners, as expressed in section 5 of the Partnership Act, that "every partner is an agent of the firm and his other partners for the purpose of the business of the partnership". It followed that an act done by one partner in the conduct of the firm's business was an act done by all the others. His Lordship rejected the submission.

Counsel further contended that by section 34 of the Partnership Act the lapse of Mr Smith's certificate was an event which effected the automatic dissolution of the pre-existing partnership.

The critical question was whether Mr Smith's partners could rely on section 34 as leading to the conclusion that they were the sole principals for whom the supervising partner, Miss Griffiths, Mr Frost as managing clerk, and any other employee concerned, were acting as agents in the conduct of Mr Watson's litigation and that consequently costs claimed in respect of work done before May 2 were not in respect of anything done by Mr Smith.

Throughout the relevant period Mr Smith was held out as being a partner in the firm. It was therefore not possible to rely on section 34 having terminated the vital relationship of principal and agent between Mr Smith and his partners, the existence of which was decisive in determining affirmatively that for the purpose of section 18(2)(b) and section 23 the conduct of Mr Watson's litigation was "done by him in the course of acting as a solicitor."

That construction produced a clear-cut rule which was perfectly simple to apply. The rule might seem to be harsh when solicitors practised in large partnerships. But the essential harshness lay in a statutory provision which, on any construction, might seriously penalize an individual solicitor for the venial fault of failing to renew his practising certificate in due time.

His Lordship would allow the appeal on the certificate point and order a retrial on the issue of quantum on the footing that the solicitors were not entitled to any profit costs in respect of work done before May 2.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that Mr Watson had submitted that the judge had underestimated the amount to be deducted from the total damages because of his finding of negligence. His Lordship would dismiss his appeal in respect of the £49, which was certainly not too little.

On Mr Watson's submission that the solicitors were not entitled to sue for their fees, his Lordship said that the words of section 18(1) were concerned with a person acting as a solicitor. Practising certificates were issued to individuals, not to firms, so "person" in the subsection did not include the firm. The other partners of the firm were all qualified. Again, section 18(2) appeared to refer only to the person who had not got a practising certificate. Section 34 showed that the position of the innocent partner who had a practising certificate was unaffected. The plain meaning of the words of section 18(2) would appear to be that it was for "anything done by him" while as an unqualified person acting as a solicitor that he could not maintain an action. Section 23 again used the phrase "anything done by any unqualified person acting as a solicitor".

In *Martin v Sherry* Lord Justice Holmes had based his decision on the absence of a partnership. Lord Ashbourne did not take quite the same view; he thought that there was a verbal or titular partnership and said that the argument put forward was that while the son was not licensed the partnership would be suspended and the court should regard it as suspended. Mr Hill echoed those words when he submitted that there was a notional dissolution of the partnership when one partner failed to renew his certificate.

When the words of section 34 of the Partnership Act said "A partnership is . . . . dissolved" by the happening of an event making it illegal, did the fact that the partners were unaware of the circumstances make any difference? *Hill v Clifford* ([1907] 2 Ch 236), *R v Kupfer* ([1915] 2 KB 321), and *Hugh Stevenson & Sons Ltd v Aktiengesellschaft fur Cartonnagen Industrie* ([1918] AC 239) were of assistance. Although they did not decide the question, they did tend to show that the knowledge or otherwise of partners did not effect the dissolution. It took place by force of law.

If the partnership was dissolved by force of law and since it was illegal for someone who was not qualified to be in partnership with a solicitor, it was inevitable that if there was a partnership of solicitors it could not include the unqualified man.

The Solicitors Act was concerned with status. If solicitors entered into partnership they did so in order to share the profits and bear the financial adversities in common; also to share the abilities and expertise of the partners. But the partnership remained a group of individuals, each with a practising certificate, and it did not and could not have a certificate for the partnership as a whole.

The doctrine of holding out was not inconsistent with that view. When the question was asked whether there was a partnership so that the acts of the others must have been the acts of Mr Smith, his Lordship's answer was "no". There was no partnership. Accordingly section 5 of the Partnership Act had no application.

It was only the individual who was made incapable of maintaining an action, and even then only for acts done in contravention of the section. In the present case the unqualified person was Mr Smith. The claim did not include any costs for anything done by him acting as a solicitor. Moreover, he was not acting through Mr Frost, who was being supervised by, and was responsible to, Miss Griffiths.

Mr Smith was undoubtedly qualified for part of the period covered by the claim, from May 2, 1973, onwards, and he was entitled to sue for the later period.

If that opinion was correct it would avoid an unfair situation. There were firms with over 100 partners. It would be surprising if 99 solicitors who were completely innocent would be unable to recover costs because one partner was not qualified—even if it were no fault of his own.

Since Mr Smith at no time took any part vis-à-vis Mr Watson in any matter covered by the solicitors' bill, it followed that there were no costs claimed "in respect of anything done by him in the course of . . . acting as a solicitor." Accordingly, his submission failed.

Apart from those two matters, his Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Bridge.

LORD JUSTICE MEGAW delivered a judgment in which he agreed with Lord Justice Bridge on all the issues except that of the practising certificate—on which he agreed with the conclusion of Lord Justice Waller.

The appeal was allowed on one point only. Leave to appeal refused.

Solicitors: Hudgell, Yeates & Co; The Law Society.

PARLIAMENT, December 5, 1977

Single figure inflation by next spring predicted

House of Commons

Inflation in Britain was now running at a rate lower than the OECD average, Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Affairs, said during question time. He stated he believed that a single-figure inflation rate would be achieved next spring and continue throughout 1978.

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab) said the average monthly increase in the retail price index since March 1974 had been 1.4 per cent and between July 1970 and February 1974 it was 0.7 per cent. Up to October 1977 the index increased by 14.1 per cent over the previous 12 months, by 3.4 per cent over the previous six months and by 0.4 per cent over the previous month.

Mr David Knox (Leek, C)—Since the two periods of roughly three and threequarter years cover a Conservative Government and a Labour Government, the record of the present Government is disgraceful.

How does Mr Hattersley justify price increases of almost twice the rate under the Labour Government as under the Conservative Government when the commodity price index rose by 157 per cent when the Conservatives were in office and by only 4 per cent since the present Government came into office.

Mr Hattersley—It is clear that the new tactic of the Opposition is to compare two price increase periods and imply price increases only began on the date of the 1974 general election. The figures do not support that

During the last six months of the Conservative Government there was an 8.4 per cent increase in prices. During the most recent six months of this Government the increase has been 3.4 per cent. *Inflation began with the Barber printing boom*, not with the general election.

Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne, East, Lab)—The Opposition will continue to select figures which do their cause the most good and ignore the truth. The Government are on target for their planned reduction of inflation. This should have a suitable effect on wage bargaining during the coming six months.

Mr Hattersley—I hope it will have that effect because *if* we do have a moderate pay round the improved inflation which will go on into 1978 will last even longer than that. I am sorry the Opposition regret that the inflation situation has improved so fast. In fact, we now have a lower inflation rate than the OECD average. That is something we have not had for many years.

Mr John Wakeham (Maldon, C)—If pay increases continue at their present levels it is unlikely that inflation will be in single figures at the end of next year.

Mr Hattersley—That is wrong. If wage increases continue at present levels and earnings are held down in the way they have already been to the 10 per cent ceiling, more or less, from August 1, we will continue on a downward path.

I have no reason to change the estimates I have made regularly over the past year, all of which have proved right up to now. I hope the final estimate of single-figure inflation throughout 1978 will have the same degree of accuracy.

Sir John Hall (Wycombe, C)—The increase in earnings is likely to be more in the region of 15 or 16 per cent than the 10 per cent of the guidelines. If this is so, how does he anticipate keeping inflation within single figures ?

Mr Hattersley—There is no evidence for that. Neither the TUC nor the CBI believe it to be so. A number of Conservatives, some of whom are in the shadow Cabinet and others who would like to be in it, insist earnings would rise to *that level, but there is no statistical evidence for it.*

It is pathetic and deplorable (he added) that when something is happening that is obviously to the benefit of the British people as a whole we should see the Opposition treat it in a wholly party political fashion.

Mr David Price (Eastleigh, C) asked for the minister's latest estimate of the probable trend of retail prices over the next 12 months.

Mr Hattersley—The Government's forecast of the annual increase in retail prices was published on October 26. It was of 13.5 per cent for the final quarter of 1977 and 6.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1978. I expect the rate of inflation to fall to single figures in the first half of 1978.

But a continued reduction in the inflation rate is dependent upon the general level of wage settlements remaining within the Government's guidelines.

Mr Price—Is he saying that on the 1978 *figures*, year on figures, by the end of the year the rate of inflation will be less than 10 per cent ?

If he is, is he prepared to take a wager with me ? I wager him a dinner that they will be over 10 per cent by December 31, 1978.

Mr Hattersley—I am not prepared to take a dinner wager until I hear whom I am to have dinner with. (Renewed laughter.)

On the first part of the question, I am saying that I believe that a single-figure inflation rate will be achieved next spring and continue throughout 1978.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, UU)—He referred to the " Barber printing boom " as the cause of the rise in inflation from 1973 onwards. Is he sure there has not been a printing boomlet in the past few months

Mr Hattersley—Yes, I am. I am sure he agrees with me about the responsibility for inflation during *that period and that he applauds* the fact that we have applied considerable monetary restraint over the past year and a half that had made a contribution towards improved inflation prospects, but is not the whole story.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—It is difficult for a fireman or any other worker involved in dispute with the Government to accept that it is right and proper for the Prices Secretary to suggest that they are examining price increases when all it means is that they are standing about a mile away from it with their hands in their pockets watching prices rise.

Will he do something more than that ? Will he institute a price freeze ?

Mr Hattersley—No. The message to the firemen ought to be [illegible]—like the rest of the British population they have the strongest vested interest in getting inflation down to manageable figures, and that is achieved if we have an earnings ceiling which does not exceed 10 *per cent*.

We are asking for that not because we think next year ought to be a period of continuing sacrifice, but because a 10 per cent earnings ceiling is the best way to preserve the standard of living in 1978. It is our duty to go on saying so.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, chief Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs and prices (Gloucester, C)—Four, five or even six months' improvement in the rate of price increases, while it is to be warmly welcomed, does not make up for nearly four years of the worst inflation we have had since this Government came to power.

As it is widely acknowledged that inflation in the second half of next year is going to be rising again, his unequivocal statement *will be carefully noted. If he is not* right, it will be regarded as a short-term con trick for electoral purposes.

Mr Hattersley—*If she looks at the* National Institute figures last week she will not find any support for her there.

Dr Owen hopes for early return to racial harmony in Bermuda

Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a statement about the situation in Bermuda, said that he hoped that appeals for calm and the security measures taken over the weekend would lead to the restoration of peace and harmony on the island.

Dr Owen said : The House will be aware of the decision to send British troops to Bermuda following serious disturbances there. On December 2 two Bermudians, Erskine Burrows and Larry Winfield Tacklyn, were executed in Bermuda. Burrows had been sentenced to death on July 6, 1976, having been found guilty of murdering Police Commissioner Duckett in December, 1972, and the Governor Sir Richard Sharples and his ADC, Captain Sayers, in March, 1973. Tacklyn was tried separately on these three charges but acquitted.

In November, 1976, both Burrows and Tacklyn were found guilty of murdering two supermarket managers in April, 1973.

Tacklyn appealed against the verdict to the Bermuda Court of Appeal. The court rejected his appeal in April, 1977. Following this rejection the Bermuda Prerogative of Mercy Committee advised that neither Burrows nor Tacklyn should be reprieved and the then Acting Governor decided to accept the committee's advice. An application to the Privy Council for special leave to appeal was dismissed on October 6. Meanwhile a petition for clemency to her Majesty on behalf of both men, signed by approximately 6,000 Bermudians, had been received.

I referred the matter to the new Governor who carefully considered the matters raised in the petition. The Prerogative of Mercy Committee again advised against a reprieve and he decided that there were no grounds for changing the decision of the Acting Governor.

In 1947 the then Colonial Secretary, Mr Arthur Creech-Jones, announced to this House the policy which has been followed ever since. In accordance with that policy, having satisfied myself that there were no grounds for believing that there had been a miscarriage of justice, I had no alternative but to advise her Majesty not to intervene.

An announcement was made to this effect on November 25 and the date of the executions was set for December 2.

The Governor, who is responsible to the British Government for Bermuda's internal security, consulted the Premier and Bermuda ministers, who are responsible for all other aspects of internal affairs, on whether a stay of execution should be granted because of possible reactions to the executions. They advised the Governor that racial harmony, respect for law and order, and the security situation would suffer more if a stay of execution were granted.

On the night before the executions a demonstration occured outside the Supreme Court building which had to be broken up by police using tear gas. A number of buildings were burnt, possibly through arson, including an hotel in which, I deeply regret, three people died.

The Governor announced on December 2 a state of emergency and dusk-to-dawn curfew. Although the announcement of these measures initially had some calming effect, groups of youths caused extensive damage to property by using home-made fire bombs and other missiles, some of which were thrown at firemen, who therefore also needed police protection. There was, however, no serious personal injury.

On December 3 the entire police force had to be called out to deal with a group of about 300 youths who had assembled with the apparent intention of mounting further attacks on property. The Governor considered that the police and the Bermuda Regiment would not be able to hold the situation for much longer and he asked that reinforcements be sent from Britain.

In order to meet this request as rapidly as possible (and I am grateful to the armed forces for their quick and efficient response) a small contingent from the Belize garrison was dispatched to Bermuda yesterday. They have been joined by a company of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from the Spearhead battalion, based in Britain. They are available to supplement the local security forces if the Governor thinks it necessary.

The Governor, the Premier, and the Leader of the Opposition have appealed to the people of Bermuda for calm and for the restoration of peace and harmony. I hope the appeal and the measures we have taken will have that effect.

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Knutsford, C)—I agree entirely with the Foreign Secretary in his hopes for the restoration of peace and harmony in Bermuda, an area which has not been the scene of racial disharmony over recent years—quite the contrary.

Can he confirm that the offences in question were of an exceptional nature and that capital crimes of this kind have not occurred in Bermuda for many years ? Is it his opinion that a degree of trouble on the island has in some sense been sparked off by the independence issue ?

Can he also confirm that the degree of self-government of Bermuda is extensive and that the passage to independence is a matter which lies wholly within the wishes of the island ?

Dr Owen—I certainly hope that the racial harmony that had been established since 1965 will be maintained. There is no reason to believe that it cannot now be restored.

On the nature of the offences, I have given the facts and it is for the House to form a judgment. In Bermuda between 1958 and 1977 seven cases have been reprieved. The circumstances were unusual in this last case.

It is true that Bermuda is already given a great degree of self-government and in recent months I have taken decisions giving an even greater degree. A Green Paper has been issued for discussion on the issue of independence. I gather the Government intends to publish a White Paper on the issue. Having considered the matter it will be for the people of Bermuda to decide their path towards independence.

Mr Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon, L)—This House after long debate decided to abolish capital punishment in this country. While we are still responsible for five, and possibly six, dependent territories, is it not right as a matter of general application that the criminal code and penalties inflicted in those territories corresponds with the views of this House ? (Labour cheers.)

Dr Owen—This is a matter which the House may well wish to debate. I share Mr Thorpe's view. I am personally a convinced abolitionist. It has been the policy since 1947 that the Governor and his advisers in Bermuda, including the Prerogative of Mercy Committee, were in a better position than anyone else to take account of all relevant circumstances, including local feeling, on a particular case and capital punishment in general.

If we were to bring it back to this House and the discretion of the Secretary of State, I take the view that it would have to be a decision taken by the House on a free vote. The alternative is to have legislation covering all the dependent overseas territories, or for the overseas territories to make a change.

The Government in 1965 and in 1970 asked the dependent territories, in view of the decision taken by the House, whether they would wish to remove the death penalty. A number of them did: some decided not to. Bermuda had a free vote on it in their Parliament in 1973.

Mr Arthur Latham (City of Westminster, Paddington, Lab)—Is it not appalling and intolerable irony that last week the British Government felt unable to stop the hangings and yet this week is prepared to go to the rescue of the Bermudian authorities in dealing with the consequences of their action ?

Would the Foreign Secretary consider carefully the proposition that it is wrong to have responsibility without authority and that if any British dependency, so long as that remains its status, should not have the power to put to death any of its citizens, particularly while that is the law of this country ?

Will he speed up the revision of the constitution to achieve a fuller democracy and genuine majority government ? Many of us believe that if that had existed these hangings would not have taken place. (Labour cheers.)

Dr Owen—The constitutional question is for the people of Bermuda. The Government's view is clear. We are only too happy for all dependent territories to have full independence. We have proceeded on a policy of decolonization and wished it well.

As to the issue which Mr Latham raised, I have some sympathy with this. But it is a difficult question of balance. The House will wish to reflect on the issue, whether we would wish to take away *from* the Governor, the Government, and the prerogative of Mercy Committee, that degree of decision-making which they have and put it into Westminster.

In some senses, in view of the circumstances that followed this, there are understandable arguments for doing so. But there are conflicting arguments.

I think personally the best way is for the dependent overseas territories to reflect again on the decision taken in this House and to ask themselves whether it would not be better for them voluntarily to change their legislation to bring it into line with the legislation in this country.

Mr Stanley Newens (Harlow, Lab)—Last week a number of Labour MPs, including myself, sent Dr Owen a letter appealing for clemency and forecasting that bitterness and racial troubles would follow the carrying out of the *first* executions on the island for 30 years. The advice that he was given that these racial troubles would not be as bad was incorrect.

It is a matter of priority to reconsider the Creech-Jones formula and perhaps repudiate it because under that formula it means that we have no right to intervene on matters of this sort, but ultimately we have the responsibility afterwards of clearing up the mess and putting up with innocent deaths caused as a result of this sort of action.

Dr Owen—Tragically some of the predictions Mr Newens made have been substantiated. Before the House were to make a decision to change a policy that has been followed since 1947 we would all be wise to reflect on the issues that underlie it and make a judgment when passions are less engaged.

I am perfectly prepared to look at the question, not just on the application of the Creech-Jones formula. *Merely revoking* that would give some freedom to the Secretary of State but still not allow him to implement as an act of policy total abolition.

He would be able to consider all the circumstances and have a greater degree of discretion than he has at the moment. But if the issue of abolition was to be discussed by the House that could only be dealt with by legislation.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Progress in [illegible] in Scotland Bill. Motion relating to the Sheriff (Removal from Office) Order.

House of Lords

Today at 3.30: Local Government (Scotland) Bill [illegible] offers and prayer to Annul Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants [illegible] Order.

Seeking wider gap between price rises

The Government were examining with the Price Commission and the nationalized industries a way in which there could be a greater gap between price increases, many of which in many industries had become far too frequently, Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said during questions.

Mr Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale, C) had asked what had been the increase in prices since February, 1974.

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab)—63.4 per cent. (Conservative cries of " Oh ".)

Mr Montgomery—Does he agree with the Chancellor, Mr Healey, who said in October 1974 that the inflation rate was 8.4 per cent ? If so, is it not a terrible indictment against this Government that prices have risen so dramatically since then ?

Mr Hattersley—Nobody is pretending anything other than that we have not had a serious inflation problem and have not always tackled it as effectively as we might have. But now we are in a better prospect than most of our competitors. The Opposition should rejoice about that.

Mr Thomas Litterick (Birmingham, Selly Oak, Lab)—The Prime Minister is determined that a 10 per cent limit shall be applied on all wage and earnings increases. Can we be assured that Mr Hattersley is equally determined that the 10 per cent limit and the 12-months rule will also apply to price increases so that justice will be seen to be done ?

Mr Hattersley—It is not simply the Prime Minister but the Cabinet as a whole which is anxious to preserve the 10 per cent ceiling on earnings.

On the 12-months rule, we are at this moment examining with the Price Commission and the nationalized industries a way in which there could be a greater gap between price increases, many of which, in many industries, have *come far too frequently*.

I share his point that if we are to have a reasonable wage round we have, all the more, to concentrate on a moderate set of price increases. They are directly related in both directions.

The way to get prices down to under 10 per cent and keep them there is to keep to the earnings ceiling the Chancellor has described.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire, Lab)—Will he tell the chairman of the Price Commission that many low-paid workers, such as firemen and farm workers, are beginning to get fed up with being treated as the scapegoats in the fight against inflation ?

As prices are being allowed to soar while wages are held back, it is time that the Price Commission immediately imposed a rigid 12-months rule and a rigid percentage limit rule in the same way as we have limits on wages.

Mr Hattersley—The responsibility for not applying what he calls a rigid 12-months rule on price increases is not that of the Price Commission : it is mine.

The reason why I could not recommend my colleagues in the Cabinet to support it is because to apply such a policy arbitrarily and universally would put some companies out of business, and cause unemployment problems even greater than we have at the moment.

I share his view that we must have a timescale between one price increase and another. In some ways we are making progress. The major breweries have not put up a single price for five months. That is almost an all-time record.

Complaints about activities of Performing Right Society

Mr John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said the Director General of Fair Trading had told him that in the light of complaints he had received he was considering the possibility of a monopoly reference of certain activities of the Performing Right Society Ltd.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C), who had asked for a reference of the society's activities, said—It is clear that this organization is a monopoly within the terms of legislation. In particular, will he consider if a reference should be made, in the light of what he says, regarding the monopolistic practices of the organization ?

It is discriminating against certain people whose interests it says it is serving.

Mr Fraser (Lambeth, Norwood, Lab)—I agree that in the two main services it performs, it is a monopoly. On other allegations, the Director General would wish to look carefully at the evidence and hear the views of parties on both sides before making a decision.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—The problem for people trying to change the system which operates in this society is that those running the show ensure large numbers of proxy votes to keep the other people from having a voice on the board, as happens with the Amateur Athletic Association.

Mr Fraser—It does exercise some characteristics as a self-perpetuating oligarchy and this is one thing the Director General is examining.

Government plan for legislation to give Crown Agents corporate status: public inquiry sought

The Fay report on the Crown Agents made shocking reading and was a shocking indictment of the background and atmosphere in which the operations described took place, Mr John Mendelson (Penistone, Lab) said when he opened the emergency debate on the Fay report.

Mr Mendelson said one of the most serious aspects of the report was that it mentioned from time to time so many practices where the excuse by officers of the Crown Agents when investigated and questioned by the committee of inquiry was : " This happens in the City all the time."

The Bank of England came out badly from this report. (Cheers.) There were people who had always defended that 50 per cent of the governing board was drawn from the City of London, the merchant banks and clearing banks, by saying there was great advantage in having such a composition instead of their being such people as civil servants, university lecturers or the business world.

Why did the Bank of England keep a blind eye on the shocking developments taking place over such a long period ? Why did people not say to the Director or Deputy Director that it was time for action ? Instead they kept a prudent silence which showed up badly.

There was a time-honoured tradition that the Crown Agents was a body of such high quality and standing that they were able to attract money from the banks and other quarters at good and easy terms. That high tradition had been endangered by the operations of the past 10 years.

He did not underestimate the importance of the work of the Crown Agents or the anxiety felt by Mrs Hart and the Government that this work should not be impaired. It would be impaired much more by any hesitation to make sure where the guilty people were and what culpability had occurred.

He did not accept the proposal of the Government that there should be an informal inquiry sitting in private and hearing evidence in private.

" After the revelation of the loss of £200m and Mrs Hart's statement that it might be even more and that the Government might have to come back to the House and ask for further money, it was essential that the country should know that it was going to be fully informed on everything that had gone on.

They had also had the shocking revelation that so many of those people who had been involved and engaged in lucrative activities for their own advantage had refused to give evidence to the Fay Committee. They must be made to give evidence.

I propose (he said) that instead of having the committee propose by the Government, a committee should be appointed under the procedure of the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act, 1921. Such a committee is a heavy instrument which is empowered to call for papers, witnesses and the rest. On this occasion this heavy instrument is justified by the nature of the case and the purposes of the inquiry.

We ought to agree it is the only way to deal with the situation from the point of view of the public and those who will have to give evidence before such a tribunal.

The Act covered the situation of people who might be embarrassed by giving evidence by providing that if the tribunal on some occasions found because of the nature of the evidence to be submitted or the subject matter of evidence, it would have power to sit in camera.

What was essential in the public interest was to find those people who must carry the responsibility and if they had gone to some other organization, this was no argument for not exposing them.

The Government had somehow tried to give the impression on the evidence so far that there had not been wrongdoing, but incompetence and maladministration. But to say anybody involved in these transactions was so simple not to realize what they were doing was taking simplicity too far.

In order to make clear to the country at large what had been going on the Government should agree without delay to set up a tribunal and the House should endorse this proposal.

Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development (Lanark, Lab) said the essence of the matter was failure of public accountability, and that meant, at the end of the day, the failure of the executive to account to Parliament.

They should call the loss of £200m a probable loss; a loss which should be accounted for as such. It was not a question of any immediate transfer to the Crown Agents of £200m worth of public expenditure which might otherwise be used for infinitely more desirable social purposes.

The latest assessment in the Crown Agents' accounts for 1976 suggested a deficit of £212m. The accounts also showed that the Crown Agents had reserves in their own normal business of £45m.

At the same time, there was a major Australian property investment undertaken in 1970 and 1971. From this the Crown Agents, with her agreement, were disengaging gradually. Its written-down value on December 31, 1976, was assessed at £127m. It consisted largely of office blocks and other commercial property.

The £212m included the amount by which the Australian investment had been written down, but it might be possible to recoup that amount or more. They could not know at this point.

More than half the estimated loss was already covered leaving something like £80m, some of which, almost certainly, would have to be made good sooner or later.

She was trying to steer a course between realism and optimism. If and when the need arose to provide further financial assistance from the Government, they would put proposals to Parliament. The need was not so pressing that they should be forced here and now to find money if it were to be at the expense of other public expenditure.

The Crown Agents had been directed to conduct a phased and orderly withdrawal from their own account investments. A proper board had been established including independent part-time members appointed by and directly responsible to her.

She received regular reports from the Crown Agents about their overall financial position and the progress made in disengaging from their own account investments.

Within the Crown Agents, the situation revealed by the Fay Report was now completely altered. There was a full internal reporting system and the management accounting and financial information system had been completely reorganized.

I am (She said) confident that public accountability through me or any minister for overseas development to Parliament is now ensured.

But in achieving these administrative arrangements she was relying on powers exercised under the prerogative and it was clearly essential that these should have full parliamentary authority and be laid down by statute.

They needed to incorporate the Crown Agents by statute along the lines of the White Paper of April 1976.

We intend (she said) to introduce legislation as soon as parliamentary time is available which will give the Crown Agents a corporate status which will be comprehensible to the public and to overseas principals and which will clearly define in statutory terms the constitutional relationship between the Crown Agents and the Government and the minister's power of direction and provide a financial framework for the Crown Agents in statutory terms.

Two questions arose in connexion with the Aarvold inquiry which the Prime Minister (Mr Callaghan) was setting up. Why a further inquiry at all ? Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) had asked last week why they could not get these guilty people into court.

Criminal proceedings for corruption were being taken against Mr Finley in respect of loans made to Big City Finance Ltd. Criminal proceedings on grounds of corruption were being taken against Mr Bernard Wheatley, the Crown Agents' former sterling money-market manager, when he died. The proceedings against Mr Finley would continue notwithstanding the setting up of the inquiry.

Other matters were referred by the Fay Committee to the Director of Public Prosecutions. After most careful investigation by the police, the Director had decided, and the Attorney General agreed, that these matters did not disclose evidence which would justify other *prosecutions or any further inquiry* by the police. Apart from that, the Fay Committee did not disclose any evidence of possible criminal offences.

Investigation into possible exchange control offences was being and would continue to be pursued. The Attorney General had begun civil proceedings against Mr Wheatley for breach of fiduciary duty and moneys received. Now that he was dead, that action would continue against his estate and also against Mr Finley and Mr Davidson for moneys which they received.

There was also an action by the liquidator of Tanvec Limited at the instance of the Crown Agents—running concurrently with the first and against the same individuals; an action by Four Millbank Nominees; a company wholly owned by the Crown Agents, in respect of loans made to Murrayfield Securities, and an action by Four Millbank Nominees against William Stern in respect of loans made to the Stern Group.

In consultation with the Attorney General and the Crown Agents, she was seeking further advice upon whether on the evidence presently available, other civil proceedings should be instituted against other persons. The new inquiry would not delay obtaining that advice.

She was aware that the Crown Agents investments in the Stern Group had been a matter of concern to some MPs, notably Mr Skinner. The circumstances in which the Crown Agents became involved in lending to the Stern Group were fully set out in the Fay Report. Their total loans and investment amounted to some £41m. When it became clear in May 1974 that the Stern Group would be unable to meet its liabilities, the Crown Agents joined with other creditors to safeguard what they could of their investment.

In agreeing to the Scheme of Arrangement (which was subsequently entered into), the Crown Agents made no settlement wi[th] Mr Stern in respect of his person[al] liabilities to them nor have th[ey] been precluded from taking ba[nk]ruptcy proceedings. In fact oth[er] creditors are taking proceedin[gs] which could lead to a petition [in] bankruptcy. The Crown Agen[ts] stood ready to take proceedings [if] necessary.

What can be done (she said) [in] the area of criminal or civil pr[o]ceedings against individuals [or] their estates—the issue of " Ta[ke] the guilty into court "—is eith[er] being done or will be done. Ther[e] are no inhibitions.

In the Government's view, th[ey] would not be justified in setting [up] a further inquiry under the 19[21] Act to go over again only th[e] matters so carefully and compr[e]hensively investigated by Fay. Th[at] was why the terms of reference [of] the new inquiry started with th[e] words: " In the light of the repo[rt] of the Fay Committee."

This would mean much greate[r] speed, which she found an impo[r]tant argument. It was true th[at] under the provisions of the 19[21] Act witnesses could be compell[ed] to attend, but they had to b[e] extremely practical about this.

She understood that if a witn[ess] in a 1921 tribunal situation we[re] asked to give evidence but thoug[ht] he might be liable to criminal pr[o]ceedings, he could refuse to s[ay] evidence. The Aarvold commit[tee] would drawn certain conclusio[ns] from the refusal of a civil [or] Crown servant or employee of th[e] Bank of England to give evidenc[e] to it.

There were positive advantag[es] in the kind of inquiry the Govern[ment] had proposed. First ther[e] was the aspect of speed an[d] secondly, there was the encou[r]agement to witnesses to give ev[i]dence before the inquiry that wh[at] they said was said in private.

That consideration was generall[y] recognized as an effective induc[e]ment to witnesses to be much mor[e] frank in giving evidence. Th[e] inquiry could check the evidenc[e] from one witness against that give[n] by another.

One somewhat crucial argumen[t] of logic was that the Fay repor[t] was a most effective expose. It hi[d] nothing; it had alerted the countr[y] to a failure and held nothing back. It was the very opposite to a cove[r] up. They could scarcely praise Fa[y] and condemn the form of the Aa[r]vold inquiry.

The Crown Agents were a mo[st] extraordinary, idiosyncratic legac[y] of a colonial past, but she w[as] certain that they should continu[e]. They were an important part of th[e] Commonwealth relationship, apa[rt] from the relationship with coun[t]ries outside the Commonwealth. They were valuable to the coun[t]ries they served and saved the[ir] scarce manpower. They guarantee[d] a good standard of supplies an[d] services. This should not be unde[r]rated.

The issues raised went f[ar] beyond the immediate one bein[g] debated. They were concerned wi[th] the relationship between officia[ls] at various levels in Whitehall, th[e] relationship between officials a[nd] ministers and with the degree o[f] information given to ministers b[y] officials. They concerned the rel[a]tionship between the executive an[d] Parliament.

It is these matters, stretchi[ng] rather beyond the precise area [of] debate today (she said) whi[ch] should also concern all of u[s] because they fundamentally a[nd] more importantly concern th[e] whole system of government.

Former minister acknowledges share of blame

Mr Richard Wood (Bridlington, C) said self-searching of his conscience told him that, looking back at the end of 1977, he could see much more clearly than he could then, the dangerous significance of the 18 months vacuum from the beginning of 1971 during which all opportunity of obtaining information or exerting control by the ministry or any other government department was lost.

I see in retrospect (he said) that we tied our hands by our own act for a long time. But I have no apology whatever to offer for the short summary I gave to Parliament in July 1972 of the Stevenson report. This has been called misleading. But I still think it was an adequate and accurate reflection of the committee's conclusions.

It is significant that some of my advisers at the Ministry of Overseas Development were themselves disquieted by the favourable nature of the conclusions which the Stevenson report had reached.

I should have been guilty of misleading Parliament had I suggested the committee's conclusions had been at all unfavourable.

The Stevenson report suggested four possible models of future organization which presented a dilemma to him. He shrank from a course which could possibly put at risk the main foundations of the Crown Agents' business. It was that which prolonged a search for an effective working relationship and the proper modern relationship between the Government *and the Crown Agents.*

He blamed himself less for that delay than for the failure to make the arrangements when they were reached more effective.

Neither before (he said) nor after the imposition of the working principles of 1973 did I ask or cause to be asked of the Crown Agents enough questions to ensure that the information we expected was in our hands. In particular I did not examine with sufficient care the facts and statistics on which I based answers I gave to the House on November 21, 1973.

He apologized to Mr George Cunningham (Islington, South and Finsbury, Lab) for one answer which was not consciously dishonest, but which was misleading.

The Fay report said that ignorance was not the fault of the Ministry of Overseas Development, but he would be happier if he had at the time made both more strenuous and more successful efforts to secure the information *that they had the right to receive.*

As the minister at that time (he continued), I recognize my share in the responsibility for the descent to disaster in the following year, but frankly my main disquiet is about the course that the Government are proposing for the future.

The Fay report accorded praise or blame to a number of individuals, both inside and outside the Crown Agents. He found it a masterly analysis which enabled them to see not only the mistakes made by the Crown Agents but the failure of those outside to bring the situation under control. In spite of what Mrs Hart had said, the Fay report seemed already to have established or described in the terms of reference of the proposed new inquiry the nature and gravity of any negligence or breach of duty by individuals.

If it was necessary, he begged Mrs Hart to reconsider the decision that the committee should sit in private. Under an open examination, which MPs would prefer, the world would be able to see the steps taken to the judgment. (Cheers.)

However great our confidence of the inquiry's fairness and impartiality (he said) there are dangers involved in secret trials (renewed cheers) which it is in the minister's power to avoid. I strongly urge her to reconsider this and to avoid it. (Cheers.)

Sir Harold Wilson (Huyton, Lab) said that some of the things Mr Wood said only served to reinforce some of the suspicions held *at the time in the early 1970s and* not least the doubt on how far Mr Wood was being kept in touch or was not being given all the information available. On the issues so far raised, there was a strong case for an open inquiry (cheers) to put it no higher than that.

The long story of suspicion would lead to the unworthy suspicion that there was still a cover-up going on. The inquiry should be open to MPs and the public. It was essential that at the very least it should have full powers to send for all relevant persons and papers.

It was not until 1972 that the issues not only of lack of control but of widespread speculative activity, and corruption, began to surface—or not so much to surface, they were never allowed to surface, as to rumble subterraineously until the whole thing began to come out much later.

Mrs Hart went to see him in those days with a view to demanding an inquiry and to blow the thing wide open. She had full documentation, horrifying to read, even if only part true. It was now known that it was an understatement.

She ran into the most formidable system of fortification (he said) obstructing her progress, as it is possible to conceive of. I do not feel justified in using the word conspiracy, unless this phrase does become justified by any *report* of the inquiry being set up.

I would prefer to say that what was going on was not a conspiracy. It was a closing of the ranks, a cover-up, with the atmosphere described by Mr Wood, when he gave the impression of an atmosphere of almost supernatural calm during that period.

There was strong pressure from many quarters even against raising *the matter in Parliament. One reason* used was that it was a matter for the royal prerogative. Mrs Hart had two different sets of advice about the invocation of the prerogative—one four years ago and one at the present time. Probably similar warnings were given to the press.

Before the unhappy affair was put to rest and the offenders identified, if they had not been already, clear action should be taken, including full accountability to Parliament, which had not been taken, to end such scandalous practices and bring the system within ministerial control and parliamentary responsibility. It was hoped that specific action would be taken to find out why Parliament failed to exercise control.

I take my full share in the responsibility we all have, particularly as it is now known there were select committees going into these matters with vigour and thoroughness and somehow they ploughed into the sand with nearly everybody else.

Sir Michael Havers, Opposition spokesman on law (Merton, Wimbledon, C) said the Fay report had named many people and the press were going to know, whether the inquiry took place in public or in secret. The press would see who went into the inquiry and they would report it. So the rumours would be there.

It seemed Mrs Hart was suggesting that evidence given in private might be more forthcoming and more available. But Lord Salmon had said the Government could not *have confidence on evidence given in private* which could not be tested, and was therefore debased.

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex, C) said there had been difficulties when the Select Committee on Overseas Development, of which at one time he was chairman, looked into the matter in December, 1973. The evidence had been reported to the House but not published. That was a pity and he saw no reason why it should not be published if the House wished.

There was an article in yesterday's *Sunday Times* (he said) that implied that the select committee at the time I was chairman when the investigations began, somehow behaved irresponsibly in deciding to suspend its inquiries in May 1974. The impression may have been created that somehow or other the select committee failed in its duty.

That was a travesty of the truth. Mrs Hart, who had taken part in the previous select committee work, became Minister of Overseas Development. She was now in a position to take effective action and took it. The new select committee, in noting its decision not to proceed further with the inquiry which the previous select committee undertook, referred to the fact in its report that the minister was taking action.

We felt therefore (he said) that we should get on with the other inquiry on which we had already taken a great deal of evidence and resume the inquiry into the Crown Agents later on if necessary in the light of what the minister might do. We had high confidence in her.

Later, after the second election in 1974, the minister set up the committee of inquiry. It was always easy to be wise after the event but he did not think the decision of the select committee was at all irresponsible.

Mr George Cunningham (Islington, *South and Finsbury, Lab*) said something like the investigation of the Crown Agents was particularly appropriate to a select committee, because of its power to summon witnesses and make them answer questions, and its freedom either to print all its evidence or keep some of it from the public.

He was dubious about the need for any further inquiry. If there had been over many years an accepted attitude not just by civil servants, the Bank of England but ministers that the Crown Agents ought to be left alone and that there was not much power to interfere with them, were MPs, who were collectively blameworthy, going to set up a committee to find which civil servants were to be blamed ?

He did not find that an attractive idea. If it was going to be done, then such a committee must be free to lay blame also upon ministers.

Mr Peter Brooke (City of Londo[n] and Westminster, South, C), sa[id] there were rotten apples in a[ny] basket and, human nature bei[ng] what it was, probably as man[y in] Penistone as in the City of Londo[n].

His constituents in the Ci[ty] would much rather there was [a] public inquiry than that the[re] should be any suggestion that an[y]thing was being hidden.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that they should a[lso] make clear that they appreciat[ed] Mrs Hart's devoted work, esp[e]cially in Opposition, but they we[re] worried that she might have be[en] seduced, metaphorically speakin[g,] by civil servants.

We have witnessed here (h[e] said) Civil Service power in a w[ay] we have never been able to exa[m]ine it before. They have been ab[le] to carry on without restrictio[ns] being placed on them by the Hou[se] or anybody else because th[ey] are so remote and powerful.

People had been coining mon[ey] with the Bank of England an[d] Treasury on the sidelines taking [no] notice.

We are told that they did n[ot] know what was happening ([that] went on). I am not prepared [to] believe that.

The debate had made clear—a[s] the newspapers which had g[one] there at the beginning—that the[re] was one law for the rich a[nd] another for the poor. A backdo[or] attempt was being made to ma[ke] sure that nobody was caught ev[en] now.

The minister should make cle[ar] that the inquiry should be in publ[ic] and those who refused to answ[er] questions should be made to.

Mr Richard Luce, for the Oppo[si]tion (Shoreham, C) said there w[as] great disgust about Whitehall a[nd] Parliament and to overcome th[is] an inquiry must be in public.

If Mrs Hart found it necessary [to] introduce a Bill to put the Crow[n] Agents in a similar position [to] other statutory authorities wh[en] did she propose to introduce th[e] Bill ? Would it be short and co[m]prehensible ?

If other fiascos of this nam[e] were to be avoided in the futu[re] then it was not just a question [of] pinpointing culpability of civil s[er]vants in various departments, i[m]portant though that was. It was [a] question of Parliament using [its] muscle on behalf of the Briti[sh] people, and on behalf of those [to] principal governments to wh[om] they owed an obligation.

Mrs Hart said the Governme[nt] would legislate as soon as th[ey] could. It could not be a terri[bly] short Bill.

The basic question was w[hat] form the inquiry should take. S[he] was asked what the timescale w[as] likely to be as between the [two] options the House was consideri[ng]. It might be hoped that the Aarv[old] committee would have complet[ed] its work and been able to rep[ort] within six to nine months. A [tri]bunal might be likely, although [it] could only be a guess, to take [up] to two years.

She noted the strong vi[ews] expressed in favour of some k[ind] of public inquiry. The Governm[ent] wished to take fully into acco[unt] the views of the House and undertook for the Government [to] consider the matter further.

The motion for the adjournm[ent] was carried by 158 votes to 12[6,] majority against the Governm[ent] 32.

House adjourned, 7.14 pm.

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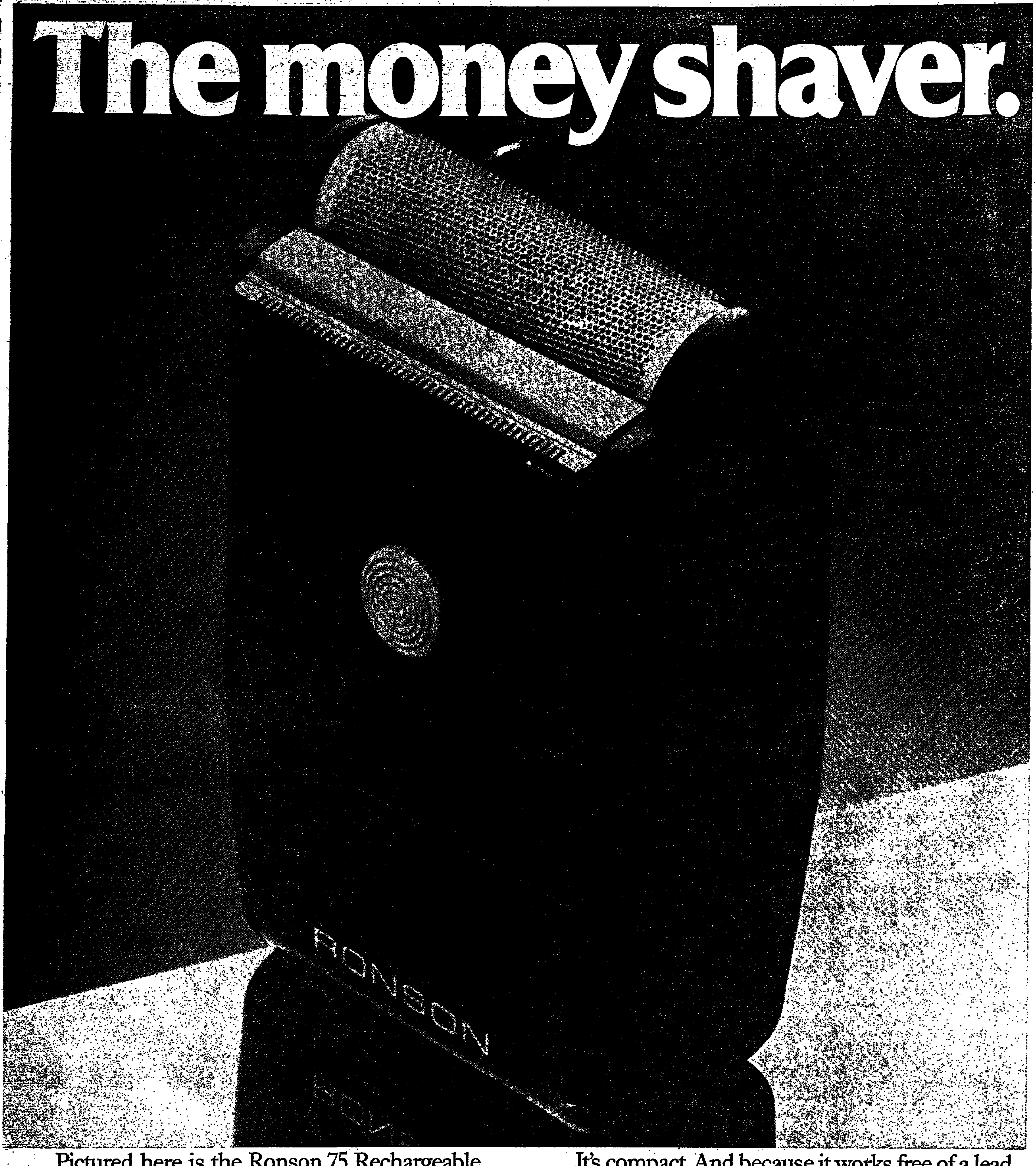

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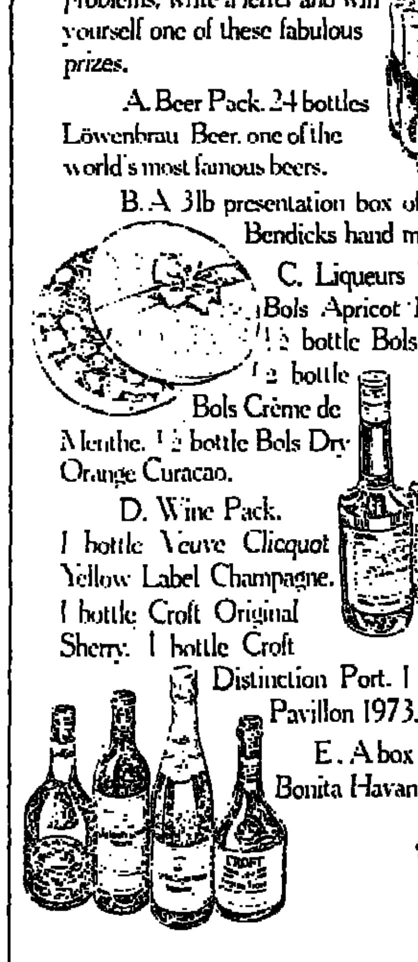

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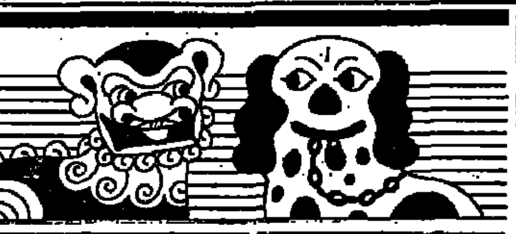

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Ill. Cat. 37p by post
View Thursday 9-7 p.m. and Friday 9-12.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 13 Dec., 10 a.m.
SOLDIERS AND MODELS.
Cat. 40p by post.
View Monday 10-7 p.m.
No view morning of sale.
at Hayes Place, N.W.1.
Tel. 01-723 1118

Members of S.O.F.A.A. Cats. 35p by post View 2 days prior at 7 Blenheim St, New Bond St, London W1. Tel 01-629-6602

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Also representatives in the West Country and East Anglia

On view 2 days prior
Tuesday evening view until 7 p.m.
Catalogues 30p unless otherwise stated.
Tuesday, 6th December at 11 a.m.
OLD ENGLISH & FOREIGN SILVER & PLATE
Incl. a pair of Robert Garrard figure salt cellars; a pair of John Gould candlesticks 1734; a pair of French silver gilt desert stands; a Georg Jensen tea set and tray. Illustrated Cat. 50p.
Wednesday, 7th December at 11 a.m.
WATERCOLOURS & DRAWINGS
Incl. works by M. B. Foster; W. Dexter; S. Owen; W. R. Tyndale; A. Rackham; G. D. Ehret; F. Goff; V. J. Nicolle; F. Wesley; A. J. Bouvier; N. H. Leaver. Illustrated Cat. 50p.
Thursday, 8th December at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
Incl. a collection of Turkomen rugs and tschovals; a Regency breakfast table; a Victorian partners desk; a set of 8 Chippendale style chairs; Chinese padouk display shelves.

Thursday, 8th December at 11 a.m.
17TH, 18TH & 19TH CENTURY EUROPEAN PAINTINGS
Incl. works by W. B. Baird; G. Barrett; A. De Breanski Snr; H. W. B. Davis; L. J. C. Dettman; J. van Huchtenburgh; W. James; S. Jonsen; G. J. Kuehl; W. H. Mander; P. Reschi; G. Romney. Illustrated Cat. 40p. (On view 3 days prior.)
Thursday, 8th December
Evening auction in aid of the Stubbs Appeal at the Tate Gallery at 7 p.m. Reception 6.30 p.m. Tickets £2.50. Viewing at the Tate: Wed 7th Dec. 10-6; Thurs. 8th Dec. 10-4.30
Friday, 9th December at 11 a.m.
PORCELAIN & WORKS OF ART & MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Monday, 12th December at 2 p.m.
STAMP SALE
Stamps from Great Britain, Europe & Ceylon. Cat. 50p. Viewing Fri. 9th Dec. 10.30-4; Mon. 12th Dec. 9.30-11.30.
At the Old Chelsea Galleries
Tuesday, 6th December at 10.30 a.m.
FURNITURE & MISCELLANEA
PICTURES at 1.30 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 003714 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court In the Matter of C.T.O. INTERNATIONAL Limited and In the Matter of the Companies Act 1948.
Notice is hereby given that a PETITION for the WINDING UP of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 18th day of November, 1977, presented to the said Court by [illegible] Fung (London) Limited whose registered office is at [illegible] Street, [illegible] London, W.1, and that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, on the 19th December, 1977, and any Creditor or contributory of the said company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his Counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
HARBOTTLE & LEWIS, 34 South Molton Street, London W1Y 2BP, Solicitors for the Petitioners.
NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their Solicitor (if any), and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 16th December, 1977.

No. 003750 of 1977.
In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court In the Matter of [illegible] ESTATES (ST LEONARDS) Limited, and In the Matter of the Companies Act, 1948.
Notice is hereby given that a PETITION for the WINDING UP of the above-named company by the High Court of Justice was on the 23rd November, 1977, presented to the said Court by the Department of the Environment, Queen Annes Chambers, 28 Broadway, London, SW1H 9JU, and that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2 on the 16th January, 1978, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an order on the said petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
K. A. T. DAVEY, Legal Branch, Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London, SW1H 9JU.
NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their Solicitor (if any), and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 13th January, 1978.

No. 003680 of 1977.
In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court In the Matter of VULCAN RECORDS Limited and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1948.
Notice is hereby given that a PETITION for the WINDING UP of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 15th day of November, 1977, presented to the said Court by Caroline Records (Exports) Limited, whose registered office is at Vernons Yard, London, W.11, and that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, on the 19th December, 1977, and any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said petition may appear at the time of the hearing in person, or by his Counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
HARBOTTLE & LEWIS, 34 South Molton Street, London, W1Y 2BP, Solicitors for the Petitioners.
NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their Solicitor (if any), and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon on the 16th December, 1977.

In the Matter of CREO INVESTMENT COMPANY Limited and In the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 31st day of December, 1977, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Maurice Charles Withall, F.C.A., of Thornton Baker & Co., Fairfax House, Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6DW, the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 17th day of November, 1977.
M. C. WITHALL, Liquidator.
N.B.—This notice is purely formal and all known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.

NOTICE
All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of AMALGAMATED DEVELOPERS (MEDICAL EQUIPMENT) Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 23rd day of December, 1977, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned C. Morris of Touche Ross & Co., 27 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1NP, the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 14th day of November 1977.
C. MORRIS, Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of STRATA-FLO Limited. Nature of Business: Manufacturers and dealers in chemicals.
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 17th October, 1977.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS 20th December, 1977, at Room G20, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1N 2HD at 11.00 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 11.30 o'clock.
H. W. J. CHRISTMAS, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of CLODEAN Limited. Nature of Business: Building Contractors.
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 17th October, 1977.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS 20th December, 1977, at Room G20, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD, at 10.00 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 10.30 o'clock.
N. SADDLER, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

DALSTON INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at 3rd Floor, 3/4 Albemarle Street, London, W.1. on Friday the 16th day of December, 1977, at 12.00 o'clock noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 295, 294 and 295 of the Companies Act, 1948.
Dated this 25th day of December, 1977.
D. J. HANNAGAN, Secretary.

A. I. & P. LAND LIMITED
Notice is Hereby Given that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at 3rd Floor, 3/4 Albemarle Street, London, W1 on Friday the 16th day of December 1977 at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 293, 294 and 295 of the Companies Act, 1948.
Dated this 25th day of November 1977.
D. J. HANNAGAN, Secretary

A. I. & P. (MAYFAIR) LIMITED
Notice is Hereby Given that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at 3rd Floor, 3/4 Albemarle St., London, W.1. on Friday the 16th day of December 1977 at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 293, 294 and 295 of the Companies Act, 1948.
Dated this 25th day of November 1977.
D. J. HANNAGAN, Secretary

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of EMBIS PRINTING Limited. No. 001583 of 1970.
Notice is hereby given that a FIRST and FINAL DIVIDEND to CREDITORS is intended to be DECLARED in the above-named Company and that Creditors who have not already proved their claims are to come in and prove such claims on or before the 21st December, 1977, after which date the Official Receiver and Liquidator of the above-named Company will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Company having regard only to such Creditors as shall then have proved their claims.
N. SADDLER, Official Receiver and Liquidator, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of FANCIGOODS WELDERS Limited. Nature of Business: Shoe component manufacturers.
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 24th October, 1977.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS [illegible] December, 1977 at Room 339, Templar House, 81 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6LP, at 11.00 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 11.30 o'clock.
L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of NEW HORIZONS CONSULTANCY Limited. Nature of Business: Employment Consultants.
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 31st October, 1977.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS 20th December, 1977, at Room G20, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1N 2HD at 10.00 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 10.30 o'clock.
H. W. J. CHRISTMAS, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of [illegible] FINANCE CO. Limited. Nature of Business: Pension Fund [illegible]
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 17th October, 1977.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS 20th December, 1977, at Room G20, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1N 2HD at 2.00 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 3.30 o'clock.
N. SADDLER, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of [illegible] Limited. Nature of Business: Property Dealers.
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 17th October, 1977.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS [illegible] December, 1977, at Room 339, Templar House, 81 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6LP at 2.00 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 2.30 o'clock.
L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of [illegible] Limited. Nature of Business: [illegible] masonry [illegible]
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 10th October, 1977.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS 20th December, 1977, at Room G20, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1N 2HD at 10.00 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 10.30 o'clock.
H. W. J. CHRISTMAS, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

A. I. & P. (PREMISES) LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at 3rd Floor, 3/4 Albemarle Street, W.1. on Friday the 16th day of December 1977 at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 293, 294 and 295 of the Companies Act, 1948.
Dated this 25th day of November 1977.
D. J. HANNAGAN, Secretary

A. I. P. (SHEFFIELD) Limited
Notice is hereby given that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at 3rd Floor, 3/4 Albemarle St., London, W.1 on Friday the 16th day of December 1977 at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 293, 294 and 295 of the Companies Act, 1948.
Dated this 25th day of November 1977.
D. J. HANNAGAN, Secretary

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s 27 of the TRUSTEE Act 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
BOULGER, JOHN HENRY of 8 Finch Drive, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northamptonshire, formerly of 71a Salerno Drive, Huyton, Merseyside. Died on 1st Nov., 1977, particulars to Peter Weir Malpas, Room 50, The Albany, Old Hall Street, Liverpool L3 9EJ, on or before 20th Feb., 1978.

COMPANY NOTICES

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
Notice is hereby given in accordance with [illegible] scheduled to the Society's Act of [illegible] from 1 January 1978 the Principal Office of the Society shall be at 15 [illegible] burgh EH16 5BU instead of at 9 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YD.
G. A. KINGSNORTH, General Manager and Actuary

PENSIONS MANAGEMENT (SWF) LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that as from 1 January 1978 the Registered Office of the Company shall be at 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU instead of at 9 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YD.
G. A. KINGSNORTH MANAGER

DRAWING OF BONDS

ECUADOR 4% GOLD CONDORES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a Drawing on the 24th November 1977 at Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited, 67 Lombard Street, London, E.C.3 the following Ecuador 4% Gold Condores Bonds were DRAWN for REPAYMENT at par on the 3rd January 1978 after which date interest thereon will cease:—
8 Bonds of £100 equals £800
58 259 261 362 267 407 470 617
Bonds with coupon No. 50 due 3.7.78 and subsequent attached should be PRESENTED for PAYMENT at Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited, 5-10 Great Tower Street, London, EC3R 5DH (and left three clear days for examination) or at the Chemical Bank, New York.
PATRICK F. J. FREEMAN, Notary Public of the Firm of:—
JOHN NEWTON & SONS, 27 Clements Lane, London, E.C.4.
WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LIMITED, 5-10 Great Tower Street, London, EC3R 5DH.
24th November, 1977.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Ministry of Hydraulic Engineering, Land Development and the Environment

Directorate of Hydraulic Engineering

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

International tenders are invited for the supply and installation of electro-mechanical and remote control equipment for the water supply system drawing water from eight (8) wells at Hamiz, to the east of the city of Algiers.

Interested companies may obtain tender specifications from

DIRECTION DES PROJETS ET DES REALISATIONS HYDRAULIQUES, BP NO. 34, BIRMANDREIS, ALGIERS.

Tenders accompanied by the necessary documentation should be sent to Monsieur le Directeur des Projets et des Realisations Hydrauliques at the above address within twenty-one (21) days of the date of publication of this notice.

Bidders will be bound by their tenders for a period of 90 days.

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London SW1

TODAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 11 a.m.
Impressionist and Modern Paintings and Sculpture. The Properties of The late Mrs. Nora Prince-Littler and others. Catalogue (71 illustrations, including 44 in colour) £3.80.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 2.30 p.m.
Impressionist and Modern Drawings and Watercolours. The Properties of The late Mrs. Nora Prince-Littler and others.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 2.30 p.m.
Fine Japanese Swords, Fittings and Armour. The Properties of Captain R. E. D. Ryder, V.C., R.N., and others. Catalogue (14 plates) 65p.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
Important Old Master and Modern Prints. The Properties of Sir John Balfour, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., Colonel William Stirling, removed from Keir House, Dunblane, Scotland, The Evelyn Family Trusts and others. Catalogue (98 illustrations, including 1 in colour) £3.50.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 8.30 p.m.
Contemporary Art. Catalogue (77 illustrations, including 22 in colour) £3.80.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
Fine French and Continental Furniture, Objects of Art, Tapestries, Eastern Rugs and Carpets. The Properties of Mrs. David Frederick Guggenheim, The Countess of Halifax, The Lord Iliffe, Lord Lambton, Colonel David Stirling, Lady Trench, The late Mrs. Nora Prince-Littler and others. Catalogue (79 plates, including 3 in colour) £1.80

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 11 a.m.
19th Century, Impressionist and Modern Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture. The Properties of Sir Terence Rattigan, C.B.E., The late Mrs. Nora Prince-Littler, The Stowe Trust Ltd. and others. Catalogue (44 illustrations) £1.80.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 11 a.m.
Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art.
Catalogue (46 plates, including 5 in colour) £2.80.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 10.30 a.m.
Miniatures and Objects of Vertu.
Catalogue (18 plates) 85p.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 10.30 a.m.
English Drawings and Watercolours.
Catalogue (15 illustrations) 75p.

SALES OVERSEAS
IN AMERICA

AT 502 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 2 p.m.
Old Master Paintings. Catalogue £2.50.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 10.30 a.m.
Important Jewels. Catalogue £3.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 10.30 a.m.
Tribal Art: African, Oceanic, American Indian and Pre-Columbian Art. Catalogue £2.50.

CHRISTIE'S REVIEW OF THE SEASON 1977
This is now available in bookshops, or from Christie's, price £12.50 post paid. All applications to John Herbert, Public Relations Director.

Catalogue prices are all post paid.
All sales subject to the conditions printed in the catalogues.

South Kensington
85 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3JS Tel: 01-581 2231

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 10.30 a.m.
English and Continental Glass.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 12 noon
Wines for Everyday Drinking.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 2 p.m.
Old and Modern Jewellery.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 2 p.m.
Phonographs, Gramophones and Allied Material.
Catalogue 60p.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 10.30 a.m.
Furniture, Carpets and Objects of Art.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 2 p.m.
English and Continental Pictures.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 2 p.m.
Mechanical Music, Amusement and Other Machines.
Catalogue 60p.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 10.30 a.m.
Oriental Works of Art.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 2 p.m.
European Ceramics and Works of Art.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 2 p.m.
Dolls, Toys and Games. Catalogue 85p.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 10.30 a.m.
Antiquities and Ethnographica.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 2 p.m.
Icons.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 10.30 a.m.
Old and Modern Silver.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 2 p.m.
Watercolours, Drawings and Prints.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 2 p.m.
Cigarette Cards, Postcards, Baxter Prints, Stevengraphs and Associated Material. Catalogue 60p.

HOUSE SALE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
The Remaining Contents of 22 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, W.8.
The Property of the Family of the Duquesa de Marchena. Catalogues available from Christie's South Kensington and Christie's King Street and by post £1.20. Catalogues NOT available at the House. Admission by catalogue only.

Catalogues 35p each post paid unless otherwise stated.
Late night viewing on Mondays until 7 p.m.

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Tel. (031) 225 4757.
York Office: Nicholas Brooksbank,
46 Bootham, York YO3 7BZ.
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North-West Office: Henry Bowring.
Whelprigg, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.
Tel. Barbon 337.
West Midlands Office: Michael Thompson,
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Tel. Bridgnorth 61891.
West Country Office: Richard de Pelet.
Monmouth Lodge, Yenston, Templecombe, Somerset.
Tel. (09637) 518.
Irish Office: Desmond Fitz-Gerald.
The Knight of Glin, Glin Castle, Glin, Co. Limerick.
Tel. Glin 44.
49 Pembroke Road, Dublin 2.
Tel. Dublin 689281.

Bernard Levin

Shame: why did Cheekykaffir have to die and spoil the fun?

I reported here a couple of months ago on the case of John Cheekykaffir, the South African black leader who was just about to be prosecuted for damaging several valuable police truncheons (by striking them repeatedly with various tender parts of his body) when he died, much to the regret of the policemen wielding the truncheons who, in the words of the Minister of Justice, Mr Sjambok-Goering: "Hadn't had so much fun since they burnt down the Koffiefontein synagogue".

At the time I wrote, my readers may recall, the inquest had not yet been held, and Mr Sjambok-Goering's disclosure of its findings, to the effect that Cheekykaffir had committed suicide while the balance of his mind, and indeed of his skull, kidneys and genitals, was disturbed, was therefore, as he was careful to point out, only provisional. "When", he said, "the inquest is finally held—and the Prime Minister (Mr Van der Scoundrel) and I are working assiduously to find some means of avoiding it altogether—fuller details will be made available, including the magistrate's finding that the two policemen who killed him should be compensated by the surviving members of his family (we're working on the problem of their survival, of course) for the distress caused to them by Cheekykaffirs selfishly dying just when they had found a lovely new way of poking his eyes out".

The inquest was, as readers will know, concluded last week, and the magistrate, a Mr Mosley Bum-Hack, recorded his findings thus:

I'm very glad about the wonderful election result here. Many of us South Africans are getting pretty sick of criticism from the rest of the world. I tell you, man, why don't they mind their own business, eh? I mean, they're always complaining about how we don't treat the blacks so good here. Now you and I know that if I sent a couple of big policemen out into the street right now to ask a passing black man how he liked it here, they would come back five minutes later and report that he had said he liked it fine. Anyway, the bastards breed like rabbits. And another thing, man. How would you like one of them marrying your daughter, eh? And don't tell me that's not what they are after—I know better. Don't give me that Christianity stuff, either—what was the Pope's name before he changed it to Montini, eh? Mendelssohn, that's what—you can always tell by the frizzy hair. Case dismissed.

Mr Sjambok-Goering, the Minister of Justice, said after the verdict that he was very glad to have been vindicated in so striking a manner, particularly since the policemen who had actually killed Cheekykaffir had been vindicated in an even more striking manner.

"While I'm on the subject", he added, "I want to clear up a misunderstanding. It has been widely reported that when I heard of Cheekykaffir's death I said 'It leaves me cold'. I would like to make it clear that I have been misrepresented over this, though I think it was the result of a genuine mis-hearing. What I sounded like 'It leaves me cold', was actually 'I am deeply, nay profoundly, distressed to hear of the death of this man in captivity. Of course, a full and searching inquiry must be carried out at once, and I shall leave no stone unturned to see that, if anything improper occurred, those responsible will be brought to book. We white South Africans have our differences with our black brethren—the bastards breed like rabbits, for a start—but I would never condone any ill-treatment of them—no stop it, I'll laugh—and indeed I regard them as my own children, which is hardly surprising, since several of them are. But what I really want to stress is that it is the duty of every decent South African to vote Nationalist in the election'".

That, it was generally agreed, cleared the matter up completely. At least, it was agreed among all right-thinking persons, but the depraved and revolting Donald Woods (editor of the no less depraved and revolting Daily Dispatch) was, naturally, not content even with so comprehensive an explanation, and went on inconveniently revealing that the Minister of Justice was a liar and an accessory after the fact, until he had to be "banned". (This, as the Minister explained, was only a temporary measure; the banning order would be lifted as soon as Mr Woods's suicide had been arranged by the police.)

Another insatiable critic was the horrible Jewish lawyer, Mr Sydney Kentridge, who appeared for the Cheekykaffir family at the inquest, even though it had been carefully explained to him in advance that in the matter of Cheekykaffir's death no blame attached to anyone, except of course the dead man himself, his family and Donald Woods. Alas, some people are never satisfied, and Kentridge insisted on cross-examining various witnesses at the inquest, including the chief medical witness for the state, Dr George Auschwitz-Syringe.

Dr Auschwitz-Syringe, who agreed that he had been affectionately known since his student days as the Hypocritic Oaf, said that he had been called to Cheekykaffir's cell in the middle of the night, when he found him lying on the floor in a pool of blood, with three policemen sitting on him. Examination revealed that he had a ruptured spleen, five broken ribs, a punctured ear-drum, extensive brain-damage, bullet-holes in his knee-caps and a nasty cold. Asked what treatment he had given, Dr Auschwitz-Syringe said that he had suggested plenty of orange-juice for the cold. "And what about the rest of his condition?" asked the obtuse and malignant Kentridge. "Oh", said the doctor, "I gave him a bang over the head to teach the bugger not to be so cheeky another time". Roars of applause greeted this reply, which left the loathsome Kentridge, as may be imagined, entirely nonplussed.

Matters hardly went better for him when he cross-examined the two policemen who had actually killed Cheekykaffir. He began by asking the magistrate to order the attendance, as witnesses, of the Minister of Justice, Mr Sjambok-Goering, and of the head of the South African security services, General Jack Bootz. The applications were refused, as was a similar demand for the production of the local police chief, Colonel Proudly-Swastika. "These are very important and busy men", said the magistrate, "and anyway, what would be the point of calling them? All the necessary lies will be told by the doctors, the policemen and me—what more do you want?" But, protested the odious Kentridge, at the very least Colonel Proudly-Swastika should be called, as there was reason to suppose that it was he who had held Cheekykaffir's arms while he was being clubbed. "Well, Good God, man", exploded the magistrate, "somebody had to hold him, surely?"

After this, the policemen themselves had little difficulty in countering Kentridge's ridiculous questions. Asked how their fingerprints came to be on the handle of the truncheons, to the other end of which bits of Mr Cheekykaffir's brain were adhering, one of them replied "I've no idea". The laughter that greeted this sally had hardly died away when the other capped it by adding "Neither have I". Further questioning was then stopped by the magistrate, who said that asking the witnesses just what had happened while they had Cheekykaffir in their custody was completely irrelevant to the case. "I must remind counsel", he said, "that what we are here for is to ensure the maximum vote for the Nationalists in the election". Then he delivered his findings, as quoted above, and the case concluded. So did Cheekykaffir, come to think of it.

James Reston interviews President Carter at the end of his first year in office

Why the Carter charisma is wearing thin

Washington

President Carter is coming down to the end of 1977 in a philosophical mood—surprised by the endless complexities of foreign and domestic affairs, disappointed by the opposition to many of his national programmes, but confident that he has established a solid foundation for substantial progress at home and abroad in 1978.

In an interview with *The New York Times* in the Oval Office, he talked about the Congress, the press, the influence of religion on history, his decline in the popularity polls, and why even his most loyal supporters seem vaguely puzzled and troubled by his leadership at the end of the year.

Looking back on 1977, he said, there was obviously a problem. "This country has been through such an ordeal in the last five or 10 years", he said, "that it is still in a healing stage—Vietnam, CIA, Watergate. It really shook the American people and their confidence in government. I don't think there will be a complete restoration of their confidence until proof is not only complete but extended over a period of time. And I am trying to do the best I can to restore that confidence.

"I think we just have to go through a long trial period in the minds of the American people before they can accept the fact that they can trust the American government again."

The President, who looked a little weary but sounded confident, also made these points:

● Foreign Affairs: He said he expected real progress in 1978. "I think we will have a Salt II agreement. I think we will have a comprehensive test ban. I think we'll have an agreement on the Indian Ocean. We will have major progress towards peace in the Middle East. I think we have a good chance the Rhodesian and Namibian questions will be resolved. I think the Panama Canal treaty will be ratified."

● Domestic Affairs: He was more cautious in his predictions for 1978 about the home front. "We will have completed the work, I believe, on an energy package. We will have good progress made on welfare reform. We will have the business community with a much clearer concept of what our economic goals are. We will have continued good progress in recovery from the 1974-75 recession. Our economic growth won't be at quite as high a rate as we have now, but it will be one of the best in the world. So I have a good feeling about 1978."

● Personal affairs: "I feel at ease. I feel good. I pace myself very carefully. I don't work any harder as President. I don't worry any more as President than I did as governor or as a candidate for President. I enjoy the job, and (in a reference to his friend, Charles Kirbo's observation that the President looked tired and older the other day) I think anybody ages, including Mr Kirbo. I doubt if I have aged any more than he has."

Carter was asked to explain the paradox that even the people who voted for him seem vaguely puzzled by his leadership at the end of the year:

Mr Carter: little hostility but little enthusiasm either.

No great hostility in the country, but no great enthusiasm either. This was clearly not his favourite subject, but he replied, as if the question really did not have much to do with him personally, and also as if maybe no great hostility and no great enthusiasm might be precisely what the country needed after all the presidential hoopla of recent years.

There were a number of reasons for this lack of popular excitement and for his decline in the popularity polls, which he made clear, did not surprise him. He was new on the national scene, never having served in the federal government until he came into the White House. He did not have a congressional track-record, he added, was not well-known to the news media figures, and had not met most world political leaders until this year.

But these, he insisted, were not the main reasons for the doubts and confusions in the public mind. In the past, he said, the basic question in people's minds was the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union, and a President could excite the public or please the public or have the public concerned simply because of his demeanour towards the Soviet Union—other matters were of secondary importance.

The President emphasized two points about this: he had brought a great many more international problems to the fore—the problems of human rights, racial tensions in Africa, economic conflicts with Japan and other countries, political and philosophical struggles in the Middle East, and many neglected controversies in the western hemisphere with Canada, Mexico, Panama and Cuba.

That was his first point. His second was that while all these questions had been troubling Washington for many years before he came here, many of them had been ignored or handled in private. The difference now, he suggested, was that he had brought them all simultaneously closer to the spotlight, and had invited public debate. In his opinion, this debate on such complicated issues contributed to the public confusion, but he defended his public diplomacy while conceding that it undoubtedly reduced his popularity.

When he was asked whether the press had misjudged him in the presidential campaign, thinking that he would concentrate on domestic rather than on foreign affairs, he replied that he thought he had a fairly well balanced commitment of his time, and after all looking back over 1977 some very important things had been done on the national front. For example:

● A \$21,000m economic stimulus package containing substantial tax reductions, public works projects and public service jobs.

● A comprehensive welfare reform programme proposal.

● A national energy plan.

● The largest farm Bill in history.

● Refinancing of a social security system that was on the verge of bankruptcy. He added: "I doubt that any Administration has done more with so many tough, complex, long-standing domestic questions in its first year."

The President has two habits that are rather unusual in Washington: first, of thinking before he speaks, and second, of speaking in sentences. He was asked, therefore, how he happened to talk publicly, for the first time by an American official, about a Palestinian homeland. Was this word chosen carefully or was it just down-home talk?

The President replied: "It was used with the realization of its significance. We have used two words, entity and homeland, and I don't think those words had ever been used before by an American official. I did not say independent state, but it was time for us to express clearly to the American people the genuine issues that the Israelis and the Arab neighbours have to address. We talked about real peace. We talked about borders and security. We talked about the Palestinian question. So it was not inadvertent that we used that phrase.'

Carter was very careful on questions that might involve future United States military commitments in the Middle East. No doubt at all, he said, about Washington trying to arrange peace between the Israelis and the contesting Arab states, but no blank-cheque guarantees.

When he was asked about the sudden lurches of events, as in President Sadat's mission to Jerusalem, and whether he believed that history was influenced by religion, he replied without an instant's hesitation:

"Yes. I went to my own church early that morning and for the first time here gave a public prayer, although that is a common thing in Plains, Georgia. And the thrust of my comment to the press afterwards was that I have found that one of the common things that Begin and Sadat and I share is a deep religious conviction. They mention it frequently—so did Crown Prince Fahd when he was here. President Assad, Begin and Sadat frequently refer to it publicly. So do I.

"I think the fact that we worship the same God and are bound by basically the same moral principles is a possible source for resolution of differences. I was always convinced that if Sadat and Begin could get together, they would be bound by that common belief."

How the Brass-hats fought their way into a retreat

In May 1975 the General Staff announced its plans for the most fundamental reorganization of the Army since the last war, or ever perhaps this century. Now after 2½ years of trials and agonizing reappraisal, a number of soldiers are beginning to wonder if it was not too fundamental for it ever to work in practice. A number of changes have already been made to the original concept and one or two more may now be on the way.

Restructuring did not spring from a deeply felt need within the Army itself. It was largely an expedient forced upon it by the 1974-75 Defence Review, which resulted in a 15,000 loss of manpower. (A further 1,000 cut was ordered later to make up a total loss of 16,000 soldiers before April 1979.) But the General Staff tried to make a virtue out of necessity and arrived at a plan which, it claimed, improved the fighting capability of the Army anyway.

Although its overall size would remain more or less the same at around 55,000, the greatest impact would be felt in the British Army of the Rhine. Instead of three largeish divisions and two artillery brigades in the 1st British Corps, there would be four small armoured divisions (only 8,500 in each in peacetime), a new artillery division and an infantry formation called the 5th Field Force—which would not belong to the corps but to the British Logistic Support Command, assigned to guard the rear in wartime. Specialist functions like logistics would be centralized and, more dramatically, all brigades would be abolished, saving manpower on headquarters staffs.

The number of armoured reconnaissance regiments would go up, but the number of tank regiments and artillery regiments would go down, while the total force of tanks in 1st Corps would rise significantly and the number of guns would stay more or less the same. This sounds confusing, but it all helps to explain two of the advantages which the General Staff saw in the plan. One was a 13 per cent increase in the ratio of weapons to men, while another was a streamlining of the chain of command with quicker decision-making in time of war.

It was the second of these supposed advantages which proved illusory. A 1975 exercise involving BAOR's 2nd Division, the first to be restructured, turned out to be something of a disaster. Without brigades the span of command for a divisional headquarters was found to be too great. It was too great given the Army's existing communications systems anyway, which could not cope with the workload.

So each division was given two task forces, each commanded by a brigadier, to share the division's five battle groups between them. BAOR hastily pointed out that a task force had a headquarters staff of only 70 instead of 200 in the old brigades, but cynics argued that conceptually there was not very much difference and that one part of the restructuring scheme had in effect been scrapped.

Now the other advantage, the greater concentration of firepower in BAOR heavyweight regiments, is also being seriously questioned. 1st Corps, which includes some 49,000 of BAOR's 55,000 men, has simply not enough men left to do all the work. It is as if a quart has been squeezed into a pint pot. According to one official assessment an extra 2,500 men will be needed to put things right—although no figure has yet been agreed by the Ministry of Defence. Still less has it been decided how to find the extra troops.

There are three reasons for the overstretch which is now disconcerting commanders in BAOR. One is simply that regiments have been slimmed down to the bone by the process of restructuring. Another is that the new task forces have needed manpower which was not originally allowed for. A third is that new equipment coming into service is increasingly sophisticated, with the result that men are needed to go on more and longer courses to master the complexities—so there are always a number of soldiers away.

In wartime, ironically, the overstretch would be less telling. Regiments would move out of their camps to the battlefield, discarding the administrative functions associated with running a garrison, with its wives and children, in peacetime. But if BAOR is to help to provide an effective deterrent, war will not come anyway. So units—particularly the equipment-intensive regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, and to some extent the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshops—each need about 30 more men to shoulder the burden.

In the long term the Army would like to receive ministerial blessing for an increase in its overall size by, say, 2,500. In the short term it will probably have to scrape the extra soldiers from units elsewhere—one man here, one man there, and so on—helped perhaps by a hoped-for reduction in the number of troops in Northern Ireland. But something will have to be done.

If BAOR officers sound less enthusiastic about the restructuring than they did a year or two ago, it must be said that they are not entirely disenchanted. One effect of the changes had been to increase the number of company-sized combat teams—the basic "pawns" of the modern battlefield—from 72 to 92. Assuming that the four new divisions can be reinforced in time to their wartime strength of nearly 14,000, they promise to be effective fighting formations. Moreover any remaining communications problems, it is hoped, will disappear with improved systems due to be introduced in the 1980s.

But there will certainly be relief in BAOR when the General Staff has got it right. Not only has restructuring caused operational problems, but it has brought on severe headaches for administrators at the Rheindahlen headquarters. By next April the job of carving out four divisions from the existing three will have meant uprooting 23 major and 90 minor units, involving 18,000 soldiers and 23,000 dependants. Naafi clubs and other social centres suddenly seem to be not quite where they are most wanted.

Not so long ago BAOR prided itself on being the best equipped European army in Nato. There is an uncomfortable feeling that this position has passed to the West Germans. Meanwhile accommodation officers, notwithstanding restructuring, are struggling to modernize soldiers' barracks and working quarters against a background of three budgetary cuts during the past three years. Two infantry battalions have even had to make do without garages for their armoured personnel carriers.

The final irony is that if and when BAOR gets the extra men that it needs, it will end up slightly larger than it was before—though not significantly so. This is not as absurd as it sounds, but it illustrates the difficulty of explaining to soldiers the reason why.

Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

The train now launching at Platform . . . .

It seemed entirely appropriate that Edward Heath and I should be on board a special blue and white supertrain yesterday as he set off on his pre-Christmas whistle-stop tour to launch his latest book, *Travels*.

Platform 8 at Paddington, according to one cynical reporter from CBS, held all the razzmatazz of the launching of an American presidential election campaign. Mr Heath was later to cap this remark when he told me: "We could not have done better had we called a general election."

No one in his entourage would say how much it had cost to hire the train for the week. But a man from British Rail did vouchsafe to me that if the diary wanted to rent the train, with three cars of rolling stock, it would cost £10,000 for two weeks including a rolled milage of 1,000 taking in 10 venues. In one week, our former leader will visit 12 venues and, additionally, his train has five cars.

After Lord Longford, chairman of Sedgwick and Jackson, who publish *Travels*, a senior Tory whip, who was making inquiries about hiring the train on behalf of Mrs Thatcher, and other dignitaries had left the hospitality lounge, the supertrain pulled out and arrived at Reading, seven minutes early.

Mr Heath looked fit and suntanned, in a quiet ensemble of blues. "Yes, I feel well",

he said, "though for some reason people seem to resent it."

Before we moved on to Bristol, the London-bound express from the West Country pulled in at the adjacent platform. From a first-class window, Angus Maude and Michael Heseltine—two of Mrs Thatcher's chief lieutenants—peered out on the crowds on platform seven. The message on the side of Mr Heath's train was two-feet high and unmistakable. The high Tory pair looked pained.

Hansard comedy of error

Last Friday's issue of *Hansard* containing the Official Report of the late night proceedings during Wednesday's sitting of the House of Commons contained one of those priceless typographical errors which occur only rarely in this outstandingly accurate publication.

It reports Reginald Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, as saying: "Tonight we are concerned with a daft EEC directive on. . . ." Well, they say you can't gag *Hansard* and there has been many a time when MPs have complained that some of the draft directives on harmonization emanating from the EEC Commission are little else but daft.

The directive before the House on Wednesday night concerned the mutual recognition within the Community of the qualifications of architects. It has been hanging around since 1967 and MPs now seem agreed that the latest, much-revised version is not so daft as the original thanks to painstaking negotiations over the years.

A nice young lady told me, excitedly, that she had met the head of Rolls-Royce. His name was Lord Denning. I scarcely had the heart to tell her that his lordship was Master of the Rolls.

Batsmen all

Sir Ian Bancroft, new head of the Home Civil Service is a very private fellow. His short, if distinguished, entry in *Who's Who* mentions no recreations. In fact, he is no mean table tennis player.

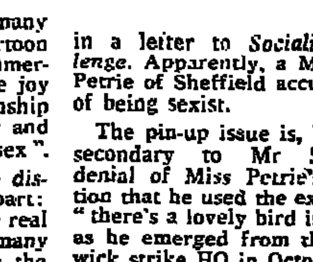
Every autumn, Whitehall's permanent secretaries spend a contemplative weekend together at the Civil Service College in Sunningdale Park. Sir Douglas Allen, the retiring Head of the Civil Service, could be seen belying his 60 years on the tennis courts. Sir Ian would take on Sir Leo Pliatzky at ping pong.

Sir Leo, the tiger of the Department of Trade, is as ferocious with the bat as he is on paper despite losing the sight of one eye and carrying the ravages of the operating table. He was as pleased as punch when he defeated Sir Ian in 1976. The result of the October 1977 battle has yet to surface on the Whitehall grapevine.

The film of Ira Levin's book about Nazi rebirth, The Boys from Brazil, which is now before the cameras, has suddenly acquired a triple-deck academic look. Two of its leading actors, Lord Olivier and Gregory Peck, and its director, Franklin Shaffner, have been awarded doctorates in humane letters from the Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. *Lord Olivier could not attend the ceremony as he was on* location in Portugal. The honour was accepted for him by Stanley O'Toole, the producer of the film.

The Lady Vanishes—by demand

For liberated women, some good news and some bad tidings. First, the good. Catnic Components, of Caerphilly, the building trade suppliers, have decided to kill off Cat Girl (on right), the fantastic lady who has spearheaded their publicity drive for their steel lintels. The Diary carried an item about her in July.



Catnic have received many complaints about their cartoon creation . . . "vulgar, commercial trash that devalues the joy that lies in a true relationship with women" . . . "vulgar and unpleasant exploitation of sex".

Catnic's obituary for the distaff Batman reads, in part: "We must acknowledge the real and genuine concern that many of our customers have for the boundaries of good taste."

Presumably, the lintels will from now on be sold on the basis of merit.

Now, the bad news for feminists. The regular page three pin-up photograph in the *NUM*'s area newspaper *Yorkshire Miner*, is to stay. Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners, defends the policy in a letter to *Socialist Challenge*. Apparently, a Miss Jane Petrie of Sheffield accused him of being sexist.

The pin-up issue is, however, secondary to Mr Scargill's denial of Miss Petrie's allegation that he used the expression "there's a lovely bird in there" as he emerged from the Grunwick strike HQ in October. He writes: "Anyone who knows me will know that the expression attributed to me is not one I would use."

With an air of finality, Mr Scargill says that some women are becoming paranoic about "something totally insignificant when there are matters of grave concern facing the working class movement."

Pack drill

Egon Ronay, having efficiently *disposed of civilian* catering, has turned his attentions to the military. These are his verdicts on the tinned, 24-hour, one-man combat ration packs which reflect the tastes *of five Western* nations:

Italian ravioli: tasteless. Belgian peasant stew: not fit for peasants. German pork and beans: should be fed to the enemy. American frankfurters and beans: "If I were given them, I would become a conscientious objector."

Mr Ronay does not think much of British chocolate sponge, but he finds our steak and kidney pudding "excellent, good and tender".

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Le Monde
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Europa

On the eve of a meeting of Community ministers on the question of monetary and economic union, David Blake explains why such a union is less an economic objective than a political paradox. M Alain Cotta, professor at the Dauphine University in Paris, separates theory from the political policies pursued and Natale Gilio recalls a fascinating incident in the negotiations which took place between Italy and the International Monetary Fund

Latecomer that has lingered

The idea that Europe should build an economic and monetary union, with a common currency for all the EEC member states, came late to the Community but it has exerted a strange fascination ever since. Strangely because the original reason given for it, that it was necessary to prevent an unravelling of the Community's Common Agricultural Policy, has been shown to be false; over the past eight years a complex but workable system has been developed to maintain the structure of the common policy towards farmers while at the same time developing means of protecting individual countries from the direct impact of parity changes on food prices.

It is made all the stranger by the fact that all efforts which have been made in the past within the Community to proceed towards some form of monetary integration have led to disaster. The monetary union of the early 1970s has degenerated into a Snake whose membership bears no relation to the list of members of the EEC.

The reasons for the failure of attempts to build a monetary union are clear. Inflation rates have differed widely in European countries since the beginning of the postwar period, and they show no signs of converging of their own accord. Consequently, the only way that a reasonable balance of competitiveness can be maintained is through a constant shift of parities. Devaluation of a currency may not provide a painless solution to the economic problems of states which are in payments deficit, but it does clearly often present itself as the only way of avoiding measures which would lead to a huge rise in unemployment.

Since the reasons for monetary union are so strong, the important question is why it continues to be tried, with the latest, and in some ways the most up to date, defence of the concept coming from the President of the European Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins.

Mr Jenkins's ideas, presented to a Florence audience in the Jean Monnet lecture, provide such a clear statement of the muddled thinking underlying much of the support for monetary union at the moment that they repay further study.

The first, and perhaps most important, misunderstanding, comes from the perennial European obsession with the role of the dollar as a reserve currency and the feeling that this gives the United States an unfair advantage in the world monetary system.

Copying America, either through a desire to emulate, or through an even more intense dislike which vents itself in a desire to outstrip American achievements, has long posed problems to clear thinking within the Community. The American example on the monetary front has caused both of these problems to the EEC.

Even supporters of monetary union admit that trade between continents or regions is possible without too much trouble under a regime of floating rates, but they argue that within Europe this system poses insuperable difficulties. What they are actually doing in this case is confusing the problems caused by parity fluctuations with the things which make them inevitable.

For the fact is that the divergence between inflation rates between members of the EEC is far greater than that between some of the more successful members and nations outside, such as the United States, which have a good record of price stability. It may be true that the adoption of a single monetary system for the whole of Europe, complete with a Europe-wide monetary authority, would lead in time to inflation rates everywhere coming to the same level. This would happen, however, only at the expense of severe unemployment in those countries where inflation tends to be high.

As Mr Jenkins himself admits, much of the inflationary impulse within countries come from the struggle over income distribution, in which workers fight (usually unsuccessfully) to increase their share of the national cake at the expense of others. Curbing this pressure through tight monetary policy would certainly be a harsh way of reducing unemployment, though some would argue that the price would be worth paying. However, this viewpoint, with its acceptance of Mr Jenkins's statement that "the disciplines of monetary union will be more, not less demanding", does not fit in with his other view—and the view of many who argue for monetary union—that it will somehow make it easier to deal with unemployment.

Having a common currency would make it no easier and no harder for Europe as a whole to run its economy at a higher level of demand. Since Mr Jenkins, who at other times seems to believe that tight monetary policies defeat inflation, becomes convinced of the need to take an expansionary stand when he turns to the problem of unemployment there seems no clear economic logic in his stance.

Indeed, at bottom the arguments for economic and monetary union have never really been about economics. They are about the fact that tying the currencies and economies of nine governments together would be possible only if an enormous convergence had already been established and if there were a willingness to make the further sacrifice of sovereignty which abandonment of their control over national currencies would entail.

Such a close union might well be in the interests of everyone in Europe; but it is more likely to be built by the slow and steady practice of working together in areas such as industrial policy, where the scope for gains is clear to everyone, than in the pursuit of some abstract notion of the way the world could be. No one solves problems by imagining how nice it would be if they ceased to exist.

D.B.

Keynes is still the inspiration

It is fashionable to claim that J. M. Keynes is no longer the inspiration behind our economic policies—which, incidentally, are becoming less and less effective in dealing with the most pressing social problems of the day: unemployment and inflation.

Every fashion lives primarily by its excesses, so that one should not be surprised that this particular one is faring none too well. The fact is that our economic policies are still almost exclusively Keynesian, despite the whole Western world's shared experience over the past 30 years of exceptionally rapid growth and even despite the major upheavals inherent in the realignment of world price relativities.

As one can scarcely make the assumption that all those who make reference to Keynes have troubled to read him, it is worth recalling that the essential objective expounded through the painstaking logic and subtle nuance of his general theory is to attain full employment of labour and hence the potential growth rate determined by the working population and the state of existing physical capital.

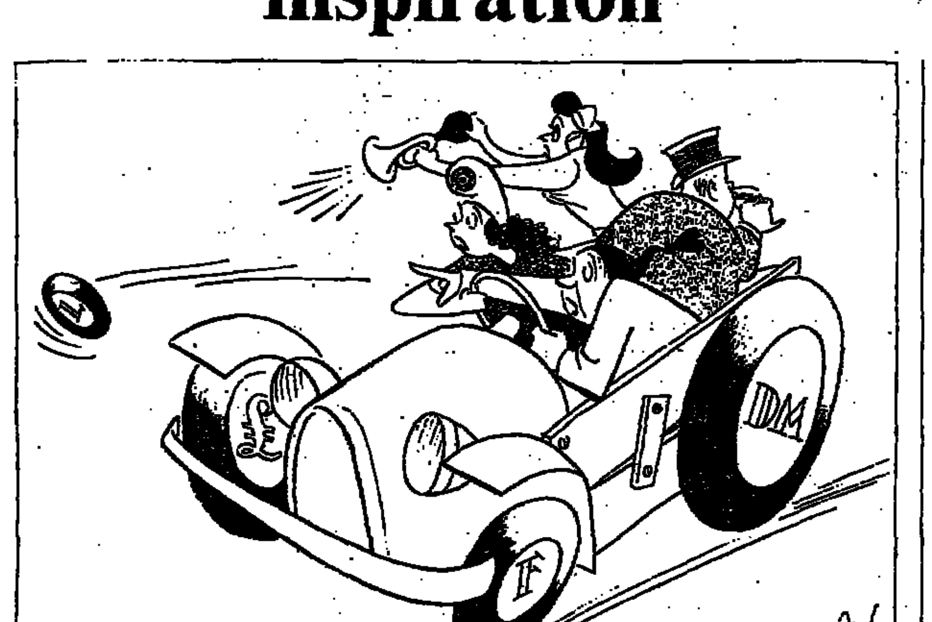
There are many means of achieving this end and they are complementary rather than interchangeable. They take shape to become Keynesian reform through the accumulated effects of easy monetary policy, preferential development of the public sector (or the non-private sector) and protectionism, or rather rejection of international free trade when it is damaging to domestic growth.

In each of these three areas, scarcely any change is discernible other than a heavier emphasis on Keynesian options. And, happily, the failures seem far less obvious than some would have us believe.

It is clear that all our monetary policies have become chronically easy. For all the monetarists' frenetic activity, there is no country in the West where the growth of the money supply is not far in excess of the growth in the real national product or where the real interest rate (nominal rate less the inflation rate) has not been reduced to nil or near it. In other words, no nation has succeeded in achieving survival and growth without inflation.

Should this be construed as a failure? Although close scrutiny of monthly inflation rates has become a pastime which governments everywhere have in common and, despite the development of the intriguing game in which voters and governments conspire to perpetuate the myth that fitness to hold office is to be measured in terms of success in combating inflation, it is not regarded as evidence of failure.

Historically, for reasons closely bound up with the way our Western economies work, there has been no



growth which has not led to inflation, in the short term and in the long term. This indeed was one of Keynes's messages, stated implicitly but firmly and justified at the time in terms of the relationship between the level of investment and the rate of interest, that is to say, the volume of the money supply.

Today this justification should be extended to embrace all the factors entering into economic and social life. There are no longer any social groups which do not stand to lose by a swift and heavy fall in the inflation rate. Households now feel the effect of real indebtedness at least as much as companies. Banks' fortunes are determined by the growth rate of the gross national product, whatever the inflation. As for ministers of finance, inflation enables them to balance their budgets, whereas only a few short years ago there were those who had thought that all hope of doing so would have to be abandoned.

All central banks are now faced with the kind of threat to their power which the Bank of England had to meet alone more than 40 years ago. Contemporary economic policies cannot therefore be other than inflationary. Clearly this does not mean that they must be resolutely so, nor that there are not certain constraints. It would be superfluous to give encouragement to such strong tendencies which are thriving so well by their own devices. On the contrary, it would perhaps be better to take steps to prevent them from pushing inflation to such levels that all illusions would be dashed.

The crucial point is that inflation in any given country cannot be isolated from inflation elsewhere; it is imported and exported and, above all, it is relative. Although absolute inflation can reach high levels, the same is not true of relative inflation—the difference prevailing between inflation in one country and in those surrounding it. Here, as always, the constraint comes from outside.

The countries which create order around themselves are precisely those which, for a variety of reasons, have least need of inflation to achieve real growth. However, as we are seeing today, they are accused of exporting deflation simply because they settle for an inflation rate of between 4 and 5 per cent and are obliged sooner or later by friendly or less than friendly persuasion to forgo a domestic success which is causing difficulties for the wider community to which they belong. Who would call being placed in this position a failure?

The growth of the public sector is Keynes's second recommendation and is more closely associated with the objective of full employment. Though it is not presented as a recommendation, it is the inevitable consequence of all manner of public interventions (investment consumption, and so on), not least deficit budgeting.

This is probably the field in which present policies are most systematic and uniform. Moreover, it is interesting to note the tone of measured discretion in which the most massive budget deficits have been announced recently by the governments of the reputedly most liberal countries. In 1975 the budget deficit was almost 7 per cent of gnp in West Germany and 5 per cent of gnp in the United States, and is now running at between 3 per cent and 4 per cent of gnp in all economies. The Keynesian revolution has become a way of life—more so than could have been expected—and this is further underlined by the fact that a threat of depression could only be eliminated by massive increases in incomes created by government.

Who would claim that these policies were a failure on the ground that, despite their intensity, unemployment has not been eliminated completely, or alternatively that the recovery would otherwise have brought back growth more quickly and more fully?

It is nevertheless clear that the western world was only able in 1974-75 to avoid a crisis on the scale of that of 1929 by recourse to the only remedies which we are able to manipulate without grave error: the Keynesian palliatives. It is equally clear that the persistence of unemployment cannot be considered with the unconcern condoned by the loose use of this term which owes too much to now remote history

Although it is desirable, and probably necessary, for the Western economies to show their ability to continue to grow with minimal unemployment, it is becoming obvious that they are able to support the present levels without social disturbances of the same kind and the same intensity as those experienced before 1939. The fundamental reason for this is that living conditions for the unemployed are no longer what they were, because of important social changes. The latter cannot have failed to increase voluntary unemployment which, like moonlighting with which it is sometimes combined, enjoys more immunity to indiscreet inquiry.

The extent of the failure of present policies is undoubtedly less than it seems and equally undoubtedly much more circumstantial than definitive, such has been the increase over recent years in our economies' capacity to solve employment problems through the growth of the public sector. This has not been the only means used; in many cases, the desired result has been achieved through organizations which defy the simplistic contrast between the private and public sectors. Nevertheless, in all countries, with the vicissitudes of economic policies which are often presented as diametrically opposed (stop and go), the proportion of employment in the private sector has declined consistently to the point of exposing what has now become a fundamental divide between the market and non-market sectors, as perceptively analysed by Bacon and Eltis.

While one may question the wisdom in today's circumstances of pursuing an economic policy which is not based

Continued on next page

Many a slip on the road to Rome

It was not until Sunday, March 13, that Mr Alan Whittome, head of the European department of the IMF, and his aides—Mr Peter Finch, Herr Albert Schmidt and Signor Umberto Dell'Anno—succeeded in completing the text of the letter of intent that the Italian Government was to sign to get the $530m loan that had been asked for so long ago.

For the first time, after many months, Mr Whittome felt relieved: at long last they had reached the end of negotiations that had been started a year previously, only to be interrupted a number of times and then resumed at the last moment when they appeared to have faded finally beyond recall. The troubled Italian political situation had only complicated matters. The Treasury Minister's chair was now occupied by Signor Gaetano Stammati, in place of Signor Emilio Colombo.

After years of friendship the two cordially detested each other. Signor Stammati, now released from a protective armour that he found too restrictive, accused Signor Colombo of having bequeathed him a ministry that was falling to pieces. Signor Colombo, from Strasbourg, where he was busy presiding over the European Parliament, replied that for 20 years Signor Stammati had been one of the people most responsible for that ministry.

From the feud between the two, those working with them had also suffered. One especially was Signor Ferdinando Ventriglia, director general of the Treasury, whom Mr Whittome had met in Paris in October 1976 with Signor Mario Ercolani, director general of the Bank of Italy.

He remembered with admiration their tenacity, and the skill with which they had defended the tax on foreign currency purchases, imposed to protect the lira against speculation. With their collaboration the first conditions for the letter of intent had been drafted: a reduction of at least 5,000,000m lire in the enlarged public sector deficit, and the revision of the machinery of the *scala mobile*—the threshold payments system.

At Rome he had found other negotiators such as Signor Vincenzo Milazzo, principal private secretary to the Prime Minister, Signor Andreotti and government auditor, and Signor Antonio Fazio, head of the research department of the Bank of Italy. With them he had started to unravel the tangled skein of Italian public finances. He had only seen the Treasury Minister twice—once on his arrival, and once one evening at dinner.

Mr Whittome sat thinking about all this after he had finished dictating his notes. His long sojourn in Rome had brought at least one benefit. He had been able to see again such true friends as Signor Sergio Siglienti, with whom he had shared an apartment during their first years in Washington, and who had now become a senior manager in the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Signor Umberto Dell 'Anno broke in on his thoughts: "Perhaps we ought to redraft the letter of intent. I heard that it is unlikely the trade unions will accept a freeze on negotiations at company level, and the exclusion of indirect tax increases from the *scala mobile*." Mr Whittome had looked at him amazed—"But the government, according to Signor Milazzo, has already heard the trade unions' views on this. Signor Milazzo never said anything about trade union opposition. Anyway, we shall give the text to the Bank of Italy tomorrow, and then we shall see."

On Monday morning the document, in English, arrived on the desk of the Governor of the Bank of Italy. Signor Baffi, who had been kept constantly informed by Signor Fazio, already knew its contents. It did not take him long, therefore, to summarize the main points with Signor Ercolani. He ordered the text to be translated into Italian, so that it could be given to Signor Stammati on Tuesday evening on his return to Brussels.

Signor Stammati did not take long to read it. The somewhat severe conditions seemed acceptable to him, in view of the gravity of the Italian situation. At last he could tell Signor Andreotti that the negotiations with the Monetary Fund had been concluded, and soon the loan, which was so necessary to give Italy new credibility internationally, would be available.

Signor Andreotti, who had been informed by Signor Milazzo, knew that the negotiations had been concluded, and was full of praise for the hard work done by the Treasury Minister. He asked him to give Mr Whittome his best wishes and thanks for his collaboration, saying that he was "a good friend to Italy".

As soon as Signor Stammati had left, Signor Andreotti sent for Signor Milazzo and his trusted economic adviser, Signor Luigi Cappugi. He wanted their assurance also that there would be no difficulties from the trade unions and the political parties regarding the conditions contained in the letter of intent. Signor Cappugi preferred to remain silent. Having been kept out of the negotiations, he did not consider he should offer an opinion. Signor Milazzo simply confirmed what Signor Stammati had said. "But have the trade unions been advised?", Signor Andreotti asked. "I think so. All contact has been through Signor Evangelisti." But the President was not convinced. His political sixth sense told him to check.

The following evening at precisely 7.30 the director general of the Treasury went into the President's room on the first floor of Palazzo Chigi. Signor Andreotti went straight to the point, asking for an expert opinion on the letter of intent. To his amazement Signor Ventriglia replied that he knew nothing of its contents. "The Treasury Minister decided not to keep me informed." "Well", Signor Andreotti rejoined, "he gave me the text yesterday evening. Would you mind looking at it, and telling me what you think?"

Signor Ventriglia read the letter of intent carefully, while Signor Andreotti signed a number of urgent papers. "Well, what do you think?" "In the main", Signor Ventriglia replied, "the letter reflects what Signor Ercolano and I discussed in Paris in October. But I am rather worried about the clauses concerning threshold payments. It is unlikely the unions will want to accept them."

So Signor Andreotti's sixth sense had not misled him. "In your opinion, could they be altered?" "It is hard to say", Signor Ventriglia replied. "Perhaps that could be discussed. The important thing is that, one way or another, increases in threshold payments should be kept within the agreed limits."

And so, as Signor Andreotti said, they would have to see Mr Whittome again. "Do you know when the IMF delegation is leaving?" "I heard Signor Ercolani say that their flight to Washington is booked for Monday next." "Very well, let me think a bit. But please cancel all engagements. I may call a meeting with the Treasury Minister and the governor, at which I should like both you and Signor Ercolani to be present."

On Sunday morning, March 20, at 10 o'clock, the blue Alfa Romeos of Signor Stammati, Baffi, Ventriglia and Ercolani passed through the main gate of Palazzo Chigi. Signor Andreotti guided the discussion with great skill. He said they must protect themselves from any opposition on the part of the trade unions, and put forward as his own idea the alternative suggested by Signor Ventriglia. Signor Baffi agreed immediately. Signor Stammati tried to resist, pointing out that the commitment had already been entered into, but in the end he was convinced that it was perhaps worth talking to Mr Whittome again. Except, as he pointed out, that he did not know how to contact him, since they had already said goodbye to each other. Signor Ercolani then mentioned that he had seen Mr Whittome in the early afternoon at the Olympic Stadium, at the Lazio-Naples football match. One of the members of the delegation, Signor Dell'Anno, was a Neopolitan, and had said that before returning to America he wanted to see his team play. Tickets for the match had been presented by the Bank of Italy.

At 5 pm Mr Whittome, dressed informally without a tie, returned to the Treasury, driven by Signor Ercolani. Signor Stammati explained the position, adding that the President was worried about opposition from the unions, and the feeling was that it would be wise to leave room for manoeuvre. Above all, social tension in the country gave appreciable grounds for concern. The day before, at a demonstration at Bologna, shots had been fired and two people had been killed. He hoped, of course, that no alterations would be necessary, and expected to be able to send the signed letter of intent to the director general of the fund, Herr Witteveen, the next week.

Signor Stammati's hopes were soon shown to be unfounded. On March 28, at a meeting requested by Signor Andreotti, the unions dug their heels in. They would never accept having the effects of increases in indirect taxation disregarded for the purposes of threshold payments. The most they could accept was that the effect of such increases should be reduced so that the trade union cost of living index should not exceed the average levels shown in the letter of intent.

This was an insuperable obstacle. Signor Stammati telephoned Washington, and attempted to explain the difficulty to Mr Whittome without success. So Signor Andreotti asked him to take the first aircraft to America, confident that once he was there the fund's managers would understand. With Signor Stammati he sent the faithful Signor Milazzo.

It was a lightning trip that lasted very few hours, but made the telephone wires between Rome and Washington white hot. While Signor Andreotti was still negotiating with the unions, Signors Stammati and Milazzo received an icy welcome from Herr Witteveen, annoyed with "these Italians who are incapable of honouring a commitment". But Mr Whittome mollified the director, pointing out that certain changes had been foreseen in Rome, and from there on, everything became easier. Signor Stammati informed Signor Andreotti that, as far as the IMF was concerned, there were no obstacles. The President in turn succeeded in closing the negotiations with the unions.

A few days later the head of the European department of the fund received the letter of intent signed by the Italian Treasury Minister, and passed it to the fund's board of directors, marking the file on the Italian negotiations "closed". Instead, it was a file destined to be reopened more than once. First, at the end of July, when it was realized that Italian government expenditure had greatly exceeded the limits that had been fixed. And then in September when Signor Stammati, recognizing at this point that "the concern" expressed by Mr Whittome in a previous letter was more than justified, was obliged to ask for changes to be made to the clauses regarding expenditure for 1977 and 1978, and the public borrowing requirement.

N.G.

Facts and figures

Excellent ●●● · Good ●● · Fairly good ● · Poor ○ · Bad ○○ · Very bad ○○○ · Prev. performance [ ]

	Rate of growth	Quality of growth		Maintenance of growth		
		Prices	Unemployment	Productive capacity	Foreign trade	Vulnerability to external factors
GERMANY	● [○]	●●● [●●]	○ [○]	● [○]	●●● [●●]	●● [●●]
FRANCE	○ [○]	○ [○]	○○ [○○]	○ [○]	●● [●]	○ [●]
ITALY	○○ [○]	○○ [○]	○○ [○○]	○ [○]	●● [●●]	● [●]
BRITAIN	○ [○]	● [●]	○○ [○○]	● [●]	●● [●●]	●● [●●]

Inflation rate levels off

During 1977, amid all the disappointments caused by the abortive efforts to *stimulate* the influential economies into dragging the others out of stagnation, there at *least* has been the consolation of one success: almost all *the big* Western countries have achieved a significant reduction in their respective rates of inflation.

This is illustrated by the graph for the average rate in our four countries, which has fallen from its peak of 12.5 per cent in January to 6.5 per cent for the period August-October. In other words, the inflation rate has *been almost halved in little over six* months, no mean achievement.

The most spectacular progress has been made by Britain and Italy, commonly regarded as the weaker economies, which have brought inflation down from double figures, with an annual rate approaching 20 per cent, to single figures, or nearly, with a rate for the *past* three *months of 6* per cent in Britain and 10 per cent in Italy. What accounts for these successes?

In Britain, the sharp reduction in wage increases, from an annual rate approaching 30 per cent to less than *10 per cent, has played a* decisive part, aided by the firmness and, in recent months, rising value of the pound. That has accentuated the effect of falling world raw materials prices, with the result that the rate of increase of wholesale prices has been in steady decline: 1.25 per cent in June, 0.75 per cent in July, 0.5 per *cent in both September and October.*

There has been no similar improvement on the wages front in Italy, where the threshold arrangements continue to pose a threat. On the other hand, world prices and the lira's stability against the dollar have kept *the rise in wholesale prices down to* 0.7 per cent in two successive months, July and August. Even West Germany, where inflation was already low at 4 per cent, has been able to make further progress, with wholesale and *retail prices almost* at a *standstill* over recent months thanks to the rise of the Deutsche mark and wage moderation.

Only France has thus far failed to achieve sufficiently significant results, although the increase in wages has *been brought down from nearly 20* per cent to roughly 10 per cent, while *prices of raw materials* and wholesale prices have eased as they have everywhere else and, except during the recent period, the franc has remained firm, against the dollar that is. Nevertheless inflation is still running at 9 per cent and resisting all efforts to *bring it below this* level apart from artificial measures such as tax reductions or price freezes.

A kind of ratchet effect seems to be ruling agricultural and food prices, allowing them to rise and preventing them from falling, and these are the prices to which households are most sensitive and which have the most *immediate influence on wage claims.* What a difference with West Germany or the United States, *where they are* falling.

There have been only the beginnings of success in cases where there has been heavy pressure on wages, as in Britain, or where activity has been maintained at a substantial level, as *in the United States where company* profits rose sharply by 20 per cent in 1976 and have kept up their impetus, rising at 12 per cent during the first half of 1977, appreciably higher than the rate of increase in wages (between 8 per cent and 9 per cent). *In West Germany on the other* hand, despite wage restraint, persistently *sluggish* activity has meant that corporate earnings fell by an estimated 4 per cent in the first half of 1977 while wages rose by 6 per cent (and public revenue by 11 per cent).

In Italy, industrial rationalization, particularly in the nationalized sector, *poses even greater problems* because of the high level of debt. In such circumstances decisive results can be obtained only by financial reorganization, such as that proposed in the Carli plan, under which debts to banks would be converted into shares and subsequently offered to the public. Although such a move is necessary, it *would not be enough in itself.* As elsewhere, there can be no recovery in the fortunes of companies without a recovery in activity.

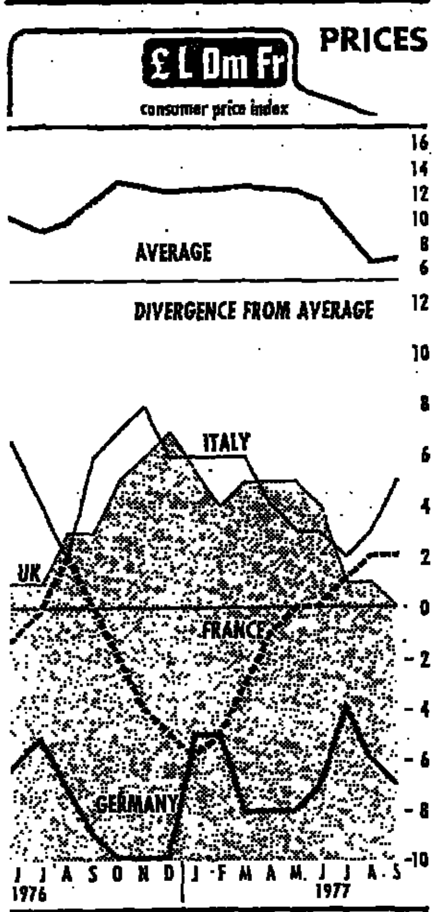
It is for this reason that the Confindustria (together with the trade unions) has made representations to *the Government to take early action* to counteract the fall in activity (which is shown up clearly in the graph on industrial production, where *it can be seen that Italy's* performance is the worst of the four countries). *According* to the Italian employers, the 2 per cent growth in gdp officially forecast for 1978 is insufficient; the target should be 4.5 per cent, even if that meant that the external deficit would rise again.

Increased economic activity, then, is the order of the day, but *not* at the expense of the ground gained in the campaign against inflation. The Americans have shown that this can be done.

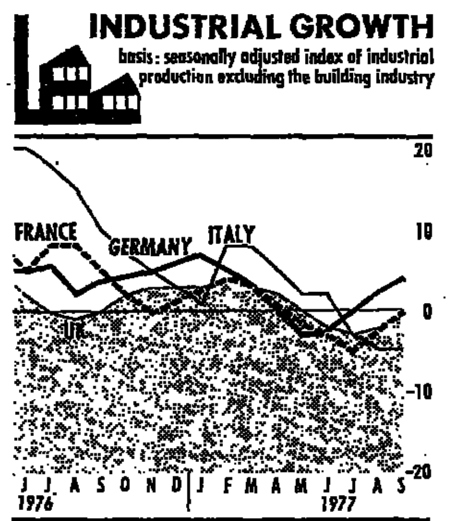
The main effort, therefore, will be needed on the domestic front from each individual country, most specifically through *keeping* wage *increases* at a reasonable level. That is the first priority in Britain, for instance, where employers are no longer being called upon to impose sacrifices as in the earlier phases, but to hold the line at a general limit of 10 per cent in the face *of a rising tide of claims.*

Italy needs to carry on combating the adverse effects of the threshold arrangements (particularly in view of the ominous October rise in the inflation rate), while acting to halt the decline in activity. In France, the *effort needs to be directed primarily* at non-wage incomes.

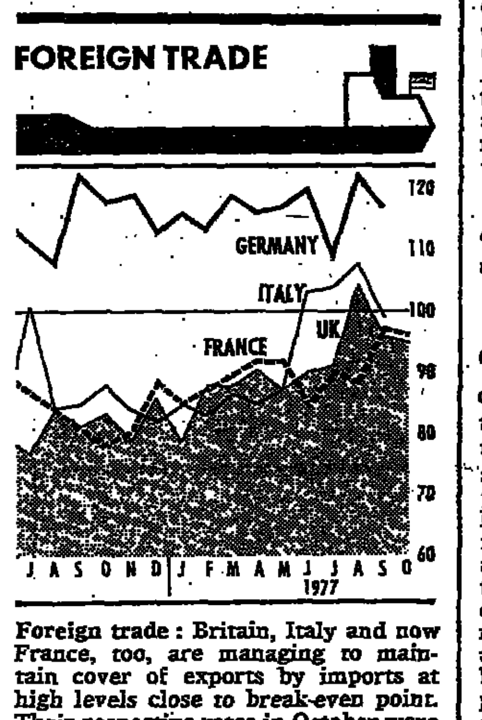
Maurice Bommensath



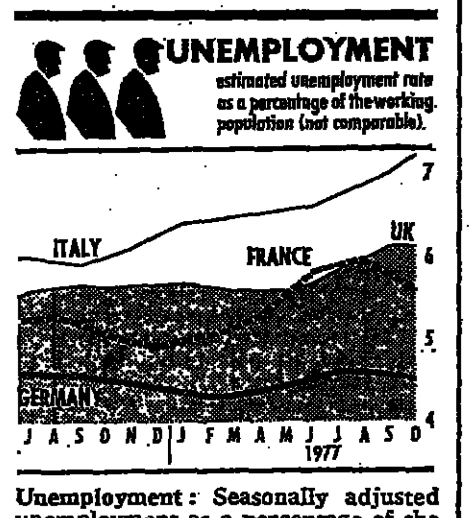
Prices: Average inflation for the four countries now seems to have reached a low point at roughly 6.5 per cent. Over the three-month period to October prices remained almost stable in West Germany and rose at only 6 per cent in Britain, but the rate is refusing to fall below 9 per cent in France, and it has recently risen from 10 to 12 *per cent in Italy.*



Growth: The decline in industrial production has levelled off in France and Britain, where the figures are stable. West Germany is back on a slight upward trend, rising by 3 per cent to 4 per cent, while Italian production is still falling at a rate of 5 per cent.



Foreign trade: Britain, Italy and now France, too, are managing to maintain cover of exports by imports at high levels close *to break-even point.* Their respective rates in October were 95 per cent, 96 per cent and 99 per cent.



Unemployment: Seasonally adjusted unemployment as a percentage of the work force was *almost* unchanged from September to October in West Germany (4.5 per cent) and Britain (6.1 per cent); it has come down in France from 5.8 to 5.6 per cent, but risen again in Italy to more than 7 per cent (although a caveat should be voiced *regarding the* influence on these movements of action by the two governments concerned).

United States: Comparative situation and influence

Industrial growth ● (●)

The *improvement in the news* about general activity continues. In particular the index of leading indicators recorded a third successive rise (0.3 per cent) in September, after 0.2 per cent in July and 1.4 per cent in August. Retail sales, which were down 0.2 per cent in September, forged ahead again by 1.8 per cent in October, a month which saw a record number of housing starts (almost 2,200,000 on an annual basis).

Prices **○ (○)**

The favourable trend in retail prices is continuing (up 0.3 per cent in September, an annual rate of just over 4 per cent over the past three months). By contrast, the acceleration in wholesale prices which started in September (0.5 per cent) continued into October (0.8 per cent), the main cause being a 2.4 per cent spurt in farm prices in October alone.

Unemployment **○○ (○)**

Since April the statistics of unemployment as a percentage of the workforce have hovered at about 7 per cent without any significant change, as witness the monthly figures: 6.9 per cent in May, 7.1 per cent in June, 6.9 per cent in July, 7.1 per cent in August, 6.9 per cent in September and 7 per cent in October. On the other hand, the numbers in employment continue to rise steadily.

Productivity capacity **○ (○)**

Investment is still not running at the level needed to strengthen and stabilize the growth rate. The main causes for this disturbing *feature are: low* capacity use (82.8 per cent in October), slower development of profits, higher interest rates and above all lack of confidence.

Trade ○○ (○○○)

September's balance of trade figures were slightly less bad than the disturbing sequence of earlier months, with the deficit reduced to *$1,700m compared* with an *average* of $2,700m for the three previous months (calculated fob-cif, the basis used for the European countries, these figures would be $2,600m and $3,600m respectively).

Influence on the four countries

Monetary and financial: American short-term interest rates, which have risen sharply (with prime rate now close to 8 per cent), are *beginning to cause embarrassment* in Europe, *where rates* have been falling. In Britain, despite sterling's continued firmness, the rate has started to rise, whereas in France the franc is falling while money market rates are substantially up, at more than 9 per cent.

Economic: After faltering during the *third quarter, the American growth rate is getting back on course,* although it still unfortunately lacks impetus and confidence, as is borne out by the reluctance to invest and the fall on Wall Street. This display of pessimism in the country that is *in the best position as far as* activity is concerned will give little encouragement to European industry.

○ Poor ○○ Bad ○○○ Very bad ● Fairly good ●● Good ( ) Previous performance

Tax-free magnet draws writers, artists

In the past eight years more than a hundred writers and artists from all over the world have decided to move to Ireland. With famous names like Frederick Forsyth and Len Deighton *among them, they represent* the advance guard of the dense crowd of intellectuals attracted to the Republic of Ireland by a magnet that has proved irresistible—the law which exempts residents from paying tax on any revenue produced by creative work.

This is one example, perhaps the least well known but no less significant, of the success that has been achieved by the package of incentives worked out by the young Irish Republic to give a fresh boost to the disorderly mechanism of the internal economy, which was threatening to condemn the country to a position at *the bottom of the European Community* league.

But, writers apart, there is no doubt that the Dublin Government has backed a winner in launching a series of revolutionary proposals that have immediately been snapped up by the business world. Ireland's great need was to steer its way clear of the sandbanks *of the recession caused, to* a greater extent than elsewhere, by the joint effects of two economic factors—on the one hand the predominantly agricultural structure, slow and hostile to the pressures for industrial change, and on the other the outflow of labour *which, massive though it was,* was not sufficient to offset the worrying increase in unemployment.

The incentives that were promised—and, what is more, have been granted—have brought about what Plant Location International, a Belgian company specializing in the placing of investments, has not hesitated to describe as a "real miracle". In 15 years 662 foreign companies have been "*persuaded*" *to establish* themselves in Ireland, with a total capital investment of £547.6m and the creation, as a result, of 76,670 new jobs.

Among the facilities offered the main incentive was 100 per cent exemption from income and other tax *on profits deriving from the export* of goods produced in Ireland, up till April, 1990. The threat of double taxation no longer hangs over repatriated profits, as a result of the agreements in force with 19 countries; and that is not all.

Foreign business is allowed to deduct, for tax purposes, the total *cost of plant outfitting expenses with* a concession that can amount to as much as 120 per cent, in the case of *factories built in depressed areas;* investments are supported by non-*repayable subsidies, which* go from 35 per cent to 50 per cent; the Govern*ment bears the cost of professional* training and even goes so far as to *finance,* generously, training courses for technicians and managers, and is open-handed in granting loans and assisted contributions for research, development, and the construction and rental of production centres.

A remarkable feature is the absence of bureaucratic delay, which has always been the classic obstacle in the way of all good intentions. From the time the feasibility study for a project is presented up to the time the grants are available, no longer than a fortnight passes, which is a record in keeping with the whole *style of "Operation* Taxation Paradise" as imposed by the IDA (Industrial Development Authority), the government body which has flung the doors of Ireland wide open to foreign investment.

No wonder, then, that so many companies have taken the *bait offered* to them so attractively; the Irish do *not ask for* shareholdings in foreign companies, and scrutiny of balance sheets is reduced to a minimum (thus many multinationals can artificially inflate the profits of their Irish branches).

Of the foreign companies that have *set up in the Republic of Ireland* since 1960, the proportion of English companies has fallen from 97 per cent to 32 per cent, followed by the Americans with 30 per cent and the Germans with 19 per cent.

In the investments sector America has taken the largest share, almost 48 per cent of the total, with £265.3m; *the United Kingdom has invested* £91.4m, Holland £67m and Germany £48.2m. The rest of the industrialized nations (Austria, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland) have "gambled" £75.7m in Ireland.

Which direction have these investments taken? In top place of prefer*ence are the textile complexes,* electronics, chemical factories, and industrial machinery. These include the Thermo King Corporation, a subsidiary of the American Westinghouse, which has opened a plant for producing refrigerator units near Galway; the German Boehringer pharmaceuticals firm; the French firm *Télémécanique Electrique;* the Italian *Ferrero confectionery* firm, and Glaxo, manufacturing veterinary products.

For all of these, and for the other tax refugees, the aces which decided the issue were always the same: low labour costs (the average hourly wage for the Irish workman, including social security contributions, is $2.73 compared with $3.28 in England, $6.41 in Germany, $5.62 in France and $5.23 in Italy); a relatively calm trade union climate (the local unions have so far refrained from declaring war on the multinationals) and the great efforts made by both the Government and the Opposition to respect the commitments entered into by the IDA.

If, therefore, *the advantages for* foreigners are obvious, there have also *been considerable* benefits for the Republic of Ireland from its courage*ous policy* of giving industrial incentives, and the most remarkable progress has been in the employment sector. In 1960 the country was only able to "invent" 250 jobs a year, a sad state of affairs that fed the scourge of unemployment and drove hundreds of *thousands of Irishmen to look for* work abroad. Now the trend has been reversed. Since 1973, 30,000 Irishmen have returned home to jobs in industry, the rate of growth of gnp is about 3.5 per cent a year, and exports have risen by 18 per cent.

On the other side of the coin there still remains the high rate of youth *unemployment—which is almost three* times the average for the EEC—and the low availability of skilled labour. As one foreign manager says: "The Irishman could certainly not be called the perfect worker. He is slow to learn new techniques, and has a marked *fondness for absenteeism;* in short, he has still a long way to go in order to acquire the necessary approach to work."

So far, about 60 small firms have given up. They all closed in Ireland for the same reason; the gain from tax exemption was more than lost by the import of efficient and, above all, *punctual workers.*

Many eyes have already turned apprehensively to 1990, the year in which the tax facilities should end. Their renewal will depend to a large extent on whether new oil deposits are found on the Irish continental *shelf, in the region of Cork. In that* case the Republic of Ireland could become *self-sufficient* in energy, and hence come to do without foreigners, a possibility which Dublin likes and the outside world likes much less.

Piero de Garzarolli

Keynes is still the inspiration

Continued from previous page

on the work of *all* and which assures the full employment on the basis of the work of just a few people, one can scarcely deny that this was the quid pro quo for a degree of social peace. Nor can it be gainsaid that the policy is likely to continue, and even be accentuated, in the future if as many technological innovations are introduced in such sectors as news, communications and management as were *applied to industrial activities* at the beginning of the last century. If this *proves to be the case, it is difficult to* see how it will be possible to take any other course than in the past, whatever the complications.

The only aspect of Keynesian policy which is clearly unsuited to today's conditions is probably its protectionist content. That is not to say that the recent problems in international trade do not make the return or accentuation of certain forms *of protectionism highly probable,* but the scale of such manifestations of protectionism could only be limited.

There is no comparison between the extent of integration of the world economy today and in 1930. Then it was possible, and indeed justifiable, *to explain to a nation—the British*—that it was beginning to pay too high a price for its declining domination and that it was better to withdraw from the world which it had fashioned almost alone and not without benefit to itself.

It is no longer possible for most Western nations to withdraw from the outside world since, although they are not fully aware of it, they are now part of a world economy. Devaluation is no longer an effective expedient to *cope with an oil deficit,* and unemployment exported through the door comes straight back in through the window.

Inflation is not the only shared experience. There are those who may be satisfied with explaining the inadequacy of the policies that have not progressed beyond Keynesian principles by blaming the purely national character of the theory *underlining them, but they would be* deceiving themselves.

A.C.

Copper forecasts missed mark

Just as the economic forecasts of world-wide economic recovery by the second half of 1977 have proved false, so predictions of prices for copper, the most important non-ferrous metal, have been wrong. Most forecasts were agreed that copper prices would rise considerably in the second half of 1977.

In fact copper prices on the London Metal Exchange and the New York Commodity Exchange are only just above the low for the year, at £645.50 a tonne and 54 cents a pound respectively. *These prices are below the* depressed levels of last year.

There is, admittedly, a strong connexion between the inaccurate forecasts for the economies and for copper. Copper is a primary commodity, subject to extreme fluctua*tions in price. The principal con*sumers are the electrical engineering industry and other industries particularly affected by the state of the economy, like mechanical engineering and construction. And the electrical engineering industry has been *delaying* investment in the face of repeated appeals to save energy, and has hence bought less *copper* than usual.

Despite all this a London company, Amalgamated Metal Trading, has forecast annual consumption of copper at 6,700,000 tons for this year, easily above 1976 levels, although still far below record consumption in 1973 of 6,900,000 tons. The only year since *1970* in which consumption outstripped production was 1973. *Production in the current year is expected* to be 6,900,000 tons, and will again be considerably in excess of *demand.*

This over-production, which has persisted for years, has meant a vast increase in world copper stocks. At the beginning of 1970, world copper stocks in all countries amounted to 817,000 tonnes; at the beginning of this year they stood at 2,800,000 tonnes, and by the end of the year Amalgamated Metal Trading estimates that they will be 3,100,000 *tonnes.*

The ratio of stocks to consumption shows clearly the desperate state of the copper market. In 1970 world stocks were 19.3 per cent of annual consumption, today they are 45.8 per cent. And if this development is not halted, Amalgamated Metal estimates that by 1980 the ratio will be more than 50 per cent.

This overproduction is particularly *surprising because the market price* (now 54 cents a pound) means that only very few firms can produce copper at a profit. The experts of The Economist Intelligence Unit give 65 cents a pound as the minimum break-even point for the bulk of copper producers. *Production costs in the United* States are actually 80 cents a pound, on average.

The reasons for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs are to be found in the later 1970s. Expectations of rising copper prices led the industry to open new mines and expand capacity. At present, according to Charter Con*solidated figures, only 85 per cent* of capacity is in use, on average, but this level of operation is still high enough to lead to further increases in stocks.

At a time of falling prices, the developing countries, in particular, are attempting to keep their earnings from copper stable by increasing production. Copper is the second most important commodity produced by these countries and is one of the 10 "core commodities" for which the developing countries are trying to get commodity agreements with the industrialized countries aimed at stabilizing prices.

A commodity agreement for copper has been in existence since 1967, when the copper exporting countries, Chile, Peru, Zaire, and Zambia formed CIPEC (Conseil Intergouvernemental des Pays Exportateurs de Cuivre). At the end of 1975 Indonesia was admitted to full membership, and Australia and New Guinea *became associate* members without voting rights. For a long time, however, CIPEC *was simply not* in a position to stabilize copper prices, above all because the United States, the biggest producer and consumer of copper, is not a member of CIPEC.

In the United States, President Carter has taken over the stockpile policy introduced by the Ford Administration. This was based on the idea that the United States should have strategic reserves adequate for a *three-year war. As this still requires* Congress's approval it will be some years before stockpile purchases can begin.

The only quick method of price stabilization for now would be a cut in production of at least 10 to 15 per cent. This is, however, rejected by the CIPEC countries. An even more radi*cal proposal comes from Mr Joseph* Zimmermann, a director of Miles Metals Company, New York; an immediate halt to production, and assumption of a quarter of current stocks by market support institutions. This would produce a state of balance *in the market by 1980.*

Other experts believe that this would be brought about automatically if present low prices continue for any length of time. This is because most producers are selling below production cost, and would be forced in the *longer term* either to reduce production or to go out of business altogether. This group argues that the lack of willingness to invest among copper producers will bring about a state of copper shortage by the beginning of the 1980s. The question then would be, *not how low can copper prices go,* but how high.

Leo Fischer

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A to Z of the EEC

Useful forms of shorthand or polite euphemisms? A glossary of some of the commoner terms that have become part of the language of diplomacy in Brussels and what they really mean.

ACPs: African, Caribbean and Pacific developing countries granted financial aid and trading concessions by the EEC under the Lomé Convention.
Association: status first granted by EEC to Greece, and now enjoyed by other Mediterranean countries, going beyond mere trade agreement but falling short of full Community membership.
CAP: Common agricultural policy.
Common customs tariff: common tariff exacted by the Nine on imports from outside the Community.
Communautaire: French term meaning roughly "community-minded". Certain states, notably France, are generally acknowledged to be much more skilled than others, notably Britain, in dressing up self interest in *communautaire* disguise.
Community preference: doctrine that EEC countries should give preference on their markets to imports from other member states, particularly in agricultural trade. A controversial exception are Britain's imports of New Zealand dairy products.
Coreper: abbreviation of French title of the committee of permanent representatives, the ambassadors who head the national missions of the Nine accredited to the European Communities in Brussels. The committee prepares meetings of the *Council*.
Council: Council of Ministers, the body which represents the Nine and takes decisions on the proposals submitted by the *European Commission*. Not to be confused with the *European Council*.
Court of Justice: sits in Luxembourg; its main function is to rule on alleged infringements of the Treaty of Rome.
Derogation: euphemism for permission to break the rules. EEC member states are asked to accept common rules in principle, but allowed many *derogations* in practice. It is the basis of the EEC's survival.
Directive: proposal by the *Commission*, which, if approved by the *Council*, leaves member governments free to introduce the appropriate legislation at the national level.
EMU: Economic and Monetary Union. Legendary objective involving ultimately the adoption of a single European currency and establishment of a single central bank and monetary authority, once talked of as a possibility by 1980. This target has long been abandoned, but the *Commission* is attempting to stimulate faster progress towards *EMU*.
Enlargement: what happened when Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the Community and will happen again if Greece, Spain and Portugal do the same.
Euratom: the European Atomic Energy Community.
ECSC: the European Coal and Steel Community.
European Commission: the supposedly supra-national body which prepares and submits policy proposals to the *Council*.
European Council: thrice yearly summit meetings of EEC prime ministers. France is represented by its head of state. Not to be confused with *Council of Ministers*.
European Parliament: sits in Strasbourg and Luxembourg. Little more than consultative body, but may become directly elected for the first time next year.
European union: mystical goal vaguely referred to in the preamble to the *Treaty of Rome*. Taken by some to imply the eventual creation of a united states of Europe and by others to mean not much more than an obligation to cooperate more closely.
Export restitution: euphemism for the large subsidies that have to be paid to EEC exporters to enable them to sell the Community's overpriced food surpluses at competitive prices on world markets.
Green currencies: artificial exchange rates designed to shield the EEC's common farm prices, fixed in *units of account*, from the fluctuations of the national currencies into which these prices are translated. The rates are sustained by *monetary compensatory amounts*.
Harmonization: progressive introduction of EEC-wide norms and standards designed to remove non-tariff barriers to trade. Standardizing urge led to misguided attempts to promote such absurdities as Euro-bread, Euro-beer and Euro-ice cream, now abandoned.
Intervention price: the market price at which the EEC buys up farm produce, such as beef and butter, and puts it into storage to prevent prices falling further. Central feature of the *CAP*, though not as sacrosanct as formerly, and enables the EEC to offer farmers guaranteed prices.
Luxembourg compromise: the agreement of the Six of January, 1966, which effectively gave every EEC member state the right to veto a proposal deemed to threaten a vital national interest. Insisted on by France as the price of returning to *Council* meetings which it had boycotted for much of the previous year.
Mandate: terms of the brief given by the *Council* to the *Commission* for negotiating trade agreements on behalf of the Nine.
MCA: abbreviation of *monetary compensatory amount*, the terms used to describe the taxes and subsidies on farm trade used to maintain the *green currencies*.
Mountains: stockpiles of surplus beef, butter and so on created by *intervention*.
Nine: present members of the EEC.
Own resources: source of revenue of the EEC budget, consisting of common duties on industrial imports, *variable levies* on farm imports and the receipts from value added tax levied at a rate of up to 1 per cent on a common list of goods and services.
Political cooperation: coordination of foreign policy by the Nine outside the framework of the *Treaty of Rome*.
President: title enjoyed for six months by each member state in turn. The country holding the presidency chairs meetings of the *Council*. Not to be confused with the presidency of the *Commission* currently occupied by Mr Roy Jenkins.
Qualified majority: system of weighted voting used in the *Council* designed to make it impossible for one big country on its own to block a proposal or for the smaller countries acting together to be outvoted. Seldom used in practice because of indiscriminate resort to *Luxembourg compromise*.
Regulation: proposal from the *Commission* which is approved by the *Council* immediately becomes law in all member states.
Reserve: euphemism for often serious objections which a member state may have to a given proposal which it nevertheless accepts in principle.
Schloss Gymnich: German château which has given its name to the twice yearly informal and supposedly secret meetings of EEC foreign ministers first held there.
Six: EEC before Britain, Denmark and Ireland joined.
Transition: five years allowed Britain, Ireland and Denmark after entry to adapt to the requirements of EEC membership. This period runs out at the end of this year.
Units of account: embryonic European currency used as a device for calculating the EEC budget, fixing farm prices and in certain transactions with non-Community countries. The value of the *unit of account* in national currencies depends on the purpose for which it is being used.
Variable levy: euphemism for import controls. Special taxes, which can be varied according to market conditions, exacted on imports of farm produce into the Community to prevent them undercutting generally more expensive Community produce. In some cases the levies are so steep as to amount to an import ban.

Michael Hornsby

J Jacques Ferry

Steel: crisis hour

French employers are traditionally inimical to *dirigisme*, whether national or international. Despite this M J. Jacques Ferry, Chairman of the Chambre Syndicale de la Sidérurgie (French steel-producers' association), has accepted state aid for several years in his efforts to tackle his industry's serious problems.

In the early 1970s, for instance, the massive investment programme considered necessary to meet competition from abroad was made possible by substantial loans from the Government. And, more recently, the plan to solve the French steel industry's crisis by reducing the labour force by 16,000 between May 1977 and May 1979 came into being as a result of negotiations with senior government officials.

Vice-chairman of the CNPF (the French employers' organization) and chairman of its influential economic committee which deals with international relations as well as economic policy, M Ferry wears his 64 years lightly after a lifetime packed with economic, political and human experience. This may well be the strength which enables him to counterbalance the weaknesses inherent in his position at the head of an industrial federation which is chronically sick, permanently dependent on the state and threatened with nationalization by the parties of the left.

But does he not also have the irony of fortune on his side? We are now seeing a repetition throughout Europe of the type of situation he experienced in France a number of years ago. The European steel industry, under attack from all sides, is going through a crisis. On its own markets, which are the only major industrial markets to remain open to all onslaughts from abroad, the battle is raging, while abroad, particularly in the United States, the competition is protecting itself securely against intruders. Even the German steelmakers, traditional supporters of complete free trade, are beginning to come round to the line taken by those in favour of coordinated action by the industry as a whole and negotiation of international agreements to lay down standards for relations between competitors.

Since the beginning of this year M Jacques Ferry has been chairman of Eurofer, the association of the principal steel producers in the nine countries of the EEC, and in this capacity he has been in constant touch with Vicomte Etienne Davignon, the member of the European Commission responsible for industrial affairs, so that he now commands attention among the industry and among the administrative authorities.

In pressing for the opening of negotiations between the European Commission and the American Government to put an end to the unfair competition and hypocritical protectionism which are on the increase, M Ferry originally set various initiatives in motion, but eventually Viscount Davignon declared that he was in favour of negotiations of this type on condition that they were sufficiently broadly-based to lead to proposals which would entail some commitment on the part of the Japanese steel industry as well. This seems to be leading up to something akin to the proposals (universally rejected at the time) for a world conference on the steel industry which M Ferry made more than two years ago in the belief that it was the only way of avoiding a major crisis.

Come what may, market organization is developing on a world-wide scale, while *dirigisme* is taking a hold on the domestic front. The choice has to be made between the lesser of two evils and, surely, crisis leading to successive bankruptcies or massive redundancies both in Europe on the one hand and in the United States and Japan on the other is the greater evil.

The question which now arises is whether what we are seeing in the steel industry—a new development as far as Europe is concerned—does not foreshadow future developments in other sectors of the economy. Does it mean that, in order to reach agreement among themselves and with the authorities, Europeans have to be at the end of their tethers?

Jacqueline Grapin

Piaggio

Revolution on two wheels

Piaggio, the Ligurian firm that produces mopeds and the Vespa scooter, was founded in 1884 and originally manufactured products for the shipbuilding industry. Subsequently it extended its activities to manufacturing railway carriages, and finally entered aeronautics—in 1915.

Immediately after the last war Piaggio, like many other Italian firms, was faced with the problem of converting its plant back to production for normal civilian commercial needs. Thus, from an original idea promoted by Enrico Piaggio and developed by a team of designers under Corradino d'Ascanio, the Vespa was born.

This revolutionary two-wheeler was the fruit of technological experience far removed from the final product, a vehicle with a stamp entirely its own. The main requirements were to be able to get about on two wheels without getting dirty, to be able to mount and dismount without fuss, to have an easily replaceable spare wheel and to keep running costs, both of fuel and maintenance, very low.

With its previous experience in the aeronautical industry, the team was able to produce an original design to meet these requirements, with a load-bearing body structure, direct transmission from the engine to the rear wheel, interchangeable wheels, a front suspension of the type used on aircraft undercarriages and, throughout, the use of light alloys to keep weight down.

The Vespa's success, which is continuing after 30 years in production—six million Vespas have been sold all over the world—has been accompanied by various myths, such as that it uses aircraft undercarriage wheels or aircraft starter motors. The truth is that it is a newly-designed product through and through.

Since February Piaggio—a company with a turnover of 200,000m lire in 1976, and a forecast turnover of 250,000m lire for this year—has had as its managing director and vice-chairman (the chairman is Signor Umberto Agnelli) Signor Giovanni Squazzini, born 54 years ago in Novara and a graduate of Turin Polytechnic in 1946, who came to Piaggio from Lancia, where he had been managing director for three years. We asked Signor Squazzini a few questions.

What are the prospects in Italy, and in Europe as a whole, for the two-wheeler market?

In 1976 total Italian production of motor-powered two-wheelers—excluding, therefore, bicycles—was over a million machines, an increase of approximately 21 per cent over 1975. Of these, 770,000 were mopeds. Over the same period Piaggio's share of total production was 500,000 machines. In the first six months of 1977 there was an increase of 24 per cent in total production. Piaggio's own output grew correspondingly, and we reckon to produce about 550,000 machines of various engine capacities (from 48cc to 200cc) this year.

About half of Piaggio's production is taken up by the home market, and the remainder is exported. Where exports are concerned, I might just mention that the total amounted to 340,000 machines, of which 244,000 were made by Piaggio.

With regard to the immediate future, both mopeds and scooters can look forward to a period of growth although, in the case of mopeds, competition in the export market is becoming increasingly fierce from the French, Germans and Japanese.

There may be a substantial increase in our exports to the United States, where President Carter's energy policy presents interesting growth prospects for low consumption two-wheelers, especially mopeds.

Piaggio's profit and loss account shows your firm's solidity and substance. What do you think of Italian publicly owned industry, about which the same cannot be said?

My main concern is to ensure that Piaggio continues to be a solid, dynamic, efficient company, just as I found it. As far as the publicly-owned sector is concerned, I hope it may soon shake itself free from the difficulties with which it is at present bedevilled, since this is in the interests of the entire Italian economy, which will benefit accordingly. What every firm must preserve is the competitiveness of its products compared with those of its international competitors. This is the only yardstick.

How are relations with the trade unions in your firm?

We have established a policy of continuing dialogue with the workers' organizations, so as to obtain agreement where company policy is concerned. Adjustment and updating to meet the indispensable needs of technology must, at the same time, bring positive answers to social needs. The last union dispute over the renewal of the labour agreement was settled, after searching discussions, to the satisfaction of both sides.

Has the oil crisis helped the two-wheeler market?

The high cost of oil undoubtedly favours the use of low-consumption vehicles, especially for short journeys and in towns. But in spite of that, the present economic crisis and prevailing inflation are not favourable factors, not even for the two-wheeler sector, since the reduced purchasing power of the individual can affect our market.

And now about yourself. You come from Lancia, the car firm you revived successfully. What do you think of your move from the four-wheeler to the two-wheeler sphere?

Cars were my first love, which turned into a marriage that lasted almost 30 years. Obviously, one never forgets one's first love, but it is also true to say that we are not divorced, since I am still managing director of Ferrari, which is the most symbolic and exciting of all the four-wheelers.

I have discovered the world of the two-wheeler day by day, from the time I joined Piaggio. It is an extremely interesting world since it is youth-oriented, and I find young people competent and determined in the choices they make. That is why you have to offer them products which measure up to their expectations—youth allows no mistakes.

As far as technology, market research and the means of production are concerned, it is no different from producing four-wheelers. There is one advantage: being in contact with young people keeps you a bit younger. And that is quite a lot.

Renzo Villare

Agriculture: embarrassment of riches

The negotiations on farm prices about to start for the year ahead traditionally mark the zenith of the European agricultural timetable, providing an opportunity to reappraise the health of the Common Agricultural Policy and to consider any adjustments.

The main feature of the dim situation confronting the Nine is overproduction. A new development, which is disturbing for countries like France, The Netherlands and Italy which 20 years ago banked on the agricultural common market of a "green Europe" in which the influence of specialization would decline and each member state would become or aspire to become self-sufficient, is that there is now a permanent surplus in a number of key products—sugar, beef, wine.

Stocks continue to rise and the cost of absorbing them is placing an increasing burden on Community finances year by year; expenditure on price maintenance by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Funds (EAGGF) since 1973, the year when Britain, Denmark and the Republic of Ireland joined the EEC, has risen as follows: 3,900m units of account in 1973, 4,100m in 1974, 4,700m in 1975, 5,500m in 1976, 7,100m in 1977 and an estimated 8,300m in 1978.

What is the explanation? In addition to the well-known factors (prices pitched too high originally, gaps in the arrangements for protection of EEC members by allowing excessive imports of vegetable proteins), two more recent phenomena have contributed to the deterioration of the situation.

The first of these has been the crisis. The Common Agricultural Policy was based on the assumption of economic expansion and prosperity which, the eager lawgivers of the 1960s believed, would be sufficient to eliminate the inherent imperfections of an operation (integration of old Europe's farming industries) which was both novel and revolutionary. Today, agricultural modernization is being held back by the difficulties experienced by farmers wishing to switch to other occupations.

The stagnation in purchasing power is having an adverse effect on consumption. Governments, under pressure from all sides to revitalize their flagging economies, are naturally paying more attention to the rise in EAGGF expenditure.

The second new factor is monetary disruption. The problem is well known: actuated by political expediency member states have generally chosen to cushion farm prices against fluctuations in their exchange rates.

European agriculture is functioning under an artificial exchange rate system whose commercial effects are corrected or supposedly corrected by the application of compensatory monetary levies. As a result agricultural production and expansion in the countries with strong currencies—led by West Germany—enjoy an abnormal advantage and this has undoubtedly done much to impede the normal development of farming.

A few statistics will serve to illustrate this situation. West Germany is the country where milk and meat stocks are highest. In September 1977 stocks of powdered milk, a particularly critical product, stood at 657,000 tonnes in West Germany, compared with 180,000 tonnes in France and 140,000 tonnes in the three Benelux countries together. On the trade side, the Germans are steadily ousting the French as exporters of animal products to Italy. This is serious, because stopping specialization in this way jeopardizes the productive potential of the EEC regions whose only asset is their agriculture.

What action has the EEC taken? What does it intend to do to rectify the situation? The need for action seems all the more urgent with the prospect of the enlargement of the Community to include Greece, Portugal and Spain, which complicates the issue in that it would necessitate the reorganization of farming in the Mediterranean. The European Commission reiterates that a policy resulting in surpluses must be rejected, but has yet to put forward firm proposals in pursuance of this profession of faith.

Apart from its efforts to secure the gradual elimination of compensatory amounts and thereby a return to unity of farm prices, it has been content with timid exploration of two courses, the first aimed at enlisting the aid of producers in its endeavours to reduce the surpluses. This is the "joint responsibility levy", the 1.5 per cent tax on milk.

This exercise already seems doomed to failure. No one in Brussels believes that it will lead to a reduction in output—"small dairy farmers are not being discouraged, but merely messed about" is the comment of one expert—and there is scepticism about the effectiveness of the new expenditure on increasing outlets which is being funded with the proceeds of the tax.

Encouraging consumption by reducing prices is the aim of the proposal put forward by Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the Danish commissioner responsible for agricultural affairs, in the hope of reforming the support system applicable to beef and veal. The effect of this proposal would be a reduction in the intervention price, but it has little chance of being adopted by the Nine.

Apart from these modest attempts, there is no coherent scheme for improving the Common Agricultural Policy. In the harsh judgment of one senior European civil servant: "To judge from what one hears from Mr Gundelach, all one can look forward to is the fundamental and disastrous idea of imposing a reduction in the guarantee on basic products, a typically liberal solution promising disaster in a Community where farmers still amount to 10 per cent of the working population in many regions."

The truth is that now, just as in the past and perhaps more so as a result of the present crisis, there is no alternative to the Common Agricultural Policy other than the destruction of the Community. With a commission so lacking in imagination, initiative and policies, this is the only reason for remaining relatively optimistic and believing that once again the catastrophe so often predicted will not take place.

Philippe Lemaître

Energy: opportunity for accord lost

Both the national oil companies and the political authorities have been making efforts over recent months towards the establishment of a European Community energy policy. Is this a realistic objective when some member countries (Britain, The Netherlands, West Germany, Belgium) have abundant supplies of hydrocarbons or coal and others have none?

The refining crisis which is affecting the whole of Europe could have brought the EEC countries closer together, but the most recent meeting of the energy ministers of the Nine demonstrates that this is far from being the case.

Up to 1973 the oil companies had invested substantially to serve a market which was expanding steadily, but the fall in consumption after the increase in oil prices and the difficulties of the world economy resulted in a surplus of some 35 per cent in refining capacity within the Community.

This development would probably not have been too much for the less powerful companies had it not been coupled with a big distortion of competition between the European oil-producing companies (with another source of income) and the others. In an article published in August 1977, Herr Jurgensen, a Hamburg professor of political economy, pointed out: "Since 1974, companies controlling almost half of the refining capacity in West Germany have been allowed to offset nearly DM 2,000m (roughly £500m) a year whereas the other operators have no other recourse than the choice between an actual loss and a distortion of profits to the detriment of expanding sectors."

As West German tax law allows consolidation of profits on production and losses on refining, prices fell with the result that companies were obliged to sell at a loss. And the contagion of German prices has spread to most of Europe. In time this could lead to a decline in exploration by European companies, which would in turn increase Europe's dependence on the outside world for supplies of crude.

If the national companies—VEBA in West Germany, Petrofina in Belgium, ENI in Italy and CFP and Elf-Aquitaine in France—were the first to react, this is because they were deeply affected by the collapse in prices. One only needs to consider their debt ratio (ratio of long-term debts to capital) at the end of 1976 to be convinced: SNEA and VEBA 42 per cent, CFP 46 per cent, Petrofina 54 per cent and ENI 59 per cent whereas Mobil has the highest debt ratio among the important companies at 24 per cent, followed by BP and Shell at 23 per cent, Texaco at 19 per cent, Socal at 17 per cent, Exxon at 14 per cent and Gulf Oil at 13 per cent.

The five European companies, which had already sent a memorandum to the EEC Commission on July 23, 1976, reiterated their proposals for the limitation of refining capacities, aid to exploration and publication of a scale of prices at the beginning of November 1977. This year France, The Netherlands and Italy have also submitted memoranda to the Community. But whereas the Italians are calling for the establishment of an oil community along the lines of the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community), the Dutch are only thinking in terms of consultations over the creation of any new refining capacity and are against any reduction in existing capacities.

A proposal published by the EEC last March, on the other hand, called for the closure over the next few years of surplus plant with total capacity of 145,000 tons. Thus the disparities between individual countries' energy resources are compounded by differences in political philosophy and national vested interests. West Germany and The Netherlands, in the name of their liberal policies, are hostile to publication of a scale of prices and support the proposals for the monitoring of transactions on the Rotterdam market, which the "five" consider unhelpful.

On October 25 in Luxembourg Britain once again invoked its regional policy to reject all constraints on its plans for industrial development. The West Germans are as opposed to the introduction of minimum prices proposed by France as the French are to the voluntary quotas which Bonn might be prepared to accept. The only common ground among the Nine is on the subject of imports of refined products.

In the face of this lack of agreement pressure is mounting for the formulation of national policies, especially in France and Italy. The French Government is helping Compagnie Française des Pétroles and Elf-Aquitaine by increasing the hydrocarbon support fund (at present 245m francs). This would be a device for compensating losses in refining under the guise of providing funds for exploration. But Europe will have wasted a good opportunity for concerted action.

Bruno Dethomas

A look at how the next generation will cope

In the steps of their fathers

What hope is there for Europe in the hands of the next generation? This was the central point in a survey carried out by Deutsche Shell to mark its seventy-fifth anniversary. Shell carried out the work together with the Emnid Institute for Market Research and Opinion Polls, with the Ifop-Etmar Institute in France, and with Social Survey (Gallup Poll) in the United Kingdom, and has now published the results. In the course of the extensive survey by the three groups, the researchers came up with results that agreed to an unusual degree. It is possible to argue from their conclusions that European values have permeated Europe's youth thoroughly.

All the young respondents attached great importance to getting on at work: in the United Kingdom 95 per cent of respondents in the age-group 12 to 23 (half male, half female) felt this was important, in France 86 per cent and in West Germany 80 per cent. Public spiritedness was approved by 87 per cent of West Germans, [illegible] per cent of French and 78 per cent of United Kingdom youth. Thrift was regarded as a good quality by 81 per cent of the British youth, 80 per cent of West German youth and 74 per cent of French.

The greatest difference was in the question of how young people saw property: only 62 per cent of the French respondents thought it was a good thing, while 81 per cent of United Kingdom and 84 per cent of West German youth approved of it. This marks a radical change in the West German attitude since 1960, when only 44 per cent of those asked thought that property was absolutely necessary, and 21 per cent actually rejected it.

One particularly interesting question probed socio-psychological aspects of European youthful personalities: "Imagine that you have done something wrong, you have been short with someone who has been good to you—what would you do?" Seventy per cent of respondents in West Germany and 76 per cent in the United Kingdom said they would apologize, 17 and 16 per cent respectively said they would try to make it up by some action. French youths reacted in an entirely different way: regard for one's fellow men is particularly important and widespread there. Ninety per cent woud apologize, and as many as 46 per cent would try to make up for the slight.

How often do young people in Europe read a book? The question asked was, "Who has read at least one book in the past fortnight?" The answer: 71 per cent in France, 68 per cent in the United Kingdom and 59 per cent in West Germany. Further analysis of the replies produced some interesting sidelights, for instance that the frequency of reading books is related to the level of education in West Germany, while in France people at all educational levels read books: young people there with less education read twice as much as those in West Germany.

How strongly developed is their interest in politics? It seems comparatively highly developed in France, only moderate in West Germany and weak in the United Kingdom. Of the West German sample 57 per cent discussed politics at home, another 45 per cent of them discussed politics with their friends, one in four read the political comment in the newspapers, and 13 per cent attended meetings.

In France, politics has no place in the home; 24 per cent of young people discussed politics in clubs, 17 per cent attended lectures, 16 per cent talked about politics with their friends, and 13 per cent belonged to discussion groups.

The lack of interest in politics among young people in the United Kingdom was shown in the 40 per cent of the sample that did not reply to this question at all; 36 per cent said that they discussed politics with friends, 28 per cent with their families at home. The report concludes: "In all European countries there is a link between more critical attitudes and the level of education, but virtually nothing remains of the highly critical tendency of students in higher education which we saw in West Germany in the late 1960s."

The European institutions and their work do not appear to strike a chord among the continent's young people: when asked if they followed the debates in the Parliament at Strasbourg or read about the conferences at Brussels, only 11 per cent of West Germans said that they did, 11 per cent of United Kingdom youths were interested, but 21 per cent of young people in France took an interest. Naturally, the degree of interest increased with age, but the European events in the Parliament and Commission were dismissed as "uninteresting" by 80 per cent of West Germans between 22 and 23, 79 per cent of United Kingdom respondents in this age group and only 48 per cent of French respondents of this age.

The increase in knowledge of a foreign language is an important positive factor in increasing contact between present generations, and hence in advancing the cause of European unity. Of the 53 per cent of West Germans, 68 per cent of United Kingdom youth and 55 per cent of French who do not speak a foreign language, were asked "Would you learn a foreign language if it was free?" On this condition 50 per cent of West German youth would learn English and 19 per cent would learn French; 63 per cent of the French would learn English and 15 per cent would learn German; and 37 per cent of the United Kingdom youth would learn French and 23 per cent German.

Taking all age groups, 45 per cent of young West Germans are able to read newspapers in English, and 14 per cent in French; 6 per cent of young British people can speak German and 24 per cent speak French; and 8 per cent of young French people speak German and 28 per cent English. In West Germany, knowledge of a foreign language is related to the level of education: in the top educational group 90 per cent speak English and 50 per cent French.

French figures are somewhat lower: at comparable educational levels only half speak English and 12 per cent speak German. The United Kingdom is strongly affected by its traditions of getting by without foreign languages: the best results are to be found among the upper middle educational stratum, where 12 per cent speak German and 39 per cent French; the top educational level makes a rather poorer showing.

And what does European youth feel about its prospects at work? Is hard work the only important factor, or does success depend to a great extent on the wealth of one's father? Or do you need luck as well? In France the youth from the families with the lowest incomes and little education are convinced that a young person's succession a profession is better, the higher the social standing of his father. Those respondents in France in the upper social groups were certain that everyone started from the same point in employment, irrespective of the father's social position and income. The researchers posed the question whether those with a higher education knew more about the real conditions than the others.

In the United Kingdom, where there is a different democratic tradition, there is a rapid falling-off in the belief in the significance of equal opportunity in the occupations with age and education. Already at 17, the idea has begun to gain ground that the position and income of one's father can be decisive. The same trend is apparent in West Germany, where the older and better educated share the opinion that the father's status is critical for one's start in an occupation.

The pollsters were surprised to learn that in the United Kingdom, where there is the highest proportion of unemployed among young people, all age groups share the belief that their prospects of employment are very fair. Only 9 per cent of United Kingdom respondents felt their prospects were poor or very poor. Corresponding figures in West Germany were 12 per cent and in France 23 per cent. In these countries, pessimism increased with age of the respondent.

A frightening conclusion for sociologists is the decline in interest in further education among young Europeans. Eighty-seven per cent of young West Germans, 85 per cent of young people in Britain, and 81 per cent in France were not interested in courses in adult education, further training, correspondence courses, vocational training, apprenticeships or external university degrees.

How mobile is Europe's youth? The answer is, very. Some 54 per cent of United Kingdom respondents were ready to work for a considerable part of their working life in another EEC country, 49 per cent of French, but only 39 per cent of West German youths were willing to leave their homeland for any time. The willingness of West German youths to work in England fell with age, but their readiness to go to France remained constant for all age-groups at 20 per cent. Other EEC countries were scarcely considered at all by young West Germans.

In the United Kingdom, however, increasing numbers and proportions of young people were interested in working in West Germany, but significant numbers were willing to consider Italy and the Benelux countries as well. Of young Frenchmen and women 24 per cent were prepared to work for a while in Britain, 18 per cent were interested in working in West Germany, and 11 per cent each in Italy and the Benelux countries respectively. The same trend was visible throughout: the higher the level of education among respondents, the more mobile they were.

The pollsters interpret the limited extent of nationalist pride among European youth as "acceptance of further European extension". Only 16 per cent of West German youths said they were proud to be German, 44 per cent said they did not have strong feelings either way; 26 per cent of young respondents in the United Kingdom replied that they were very proud to be British, and 26 per cent were indifferent. Astonishingly, only 10 per cent of young French people were "very proud", and 52 per cent were indifferent about their nationality. In all the countries, however, this indifference towards nationality was strongest in the upper social groups: the figures were 63 per cent in France, 60 per cent in West Germany and 80 per cent in the United Kingdom.

The conclusions are obvious: Europe's chances for future unity increase with increasing education and standard of living among the inhabitants of the continent.

Hans Baumann

Personnel managers become indispensable

'Firemen' climb the company ladder

In the industrialized nations the organization of the firm has developed on similar lines to their economies. European academics and practitioners have been gathering at a conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Personalführung (German Society for Personnel Management) to discuss "the current state of development in personnel management in enterprises in European countries". The last conference on that theme was in Stockholm in 1966.

How have scientific and political changes in this decade affected personnel management? Has the status of the personnel department in the firm changed relative to other departments? Where does personnel management fit into the firm? Have the tasks of the personnel department changed? Those were the central points under discussion.

M Jean Enderlin, of the Association Nationale des Directeurs et Chefs du Personnel, Paris, outlined developments in personnel management in France since the end of the last war. The personnel manager began as the "fireman" or "welfare worker". This early stage was marked by "early struggle by France to build up her economy, and the general withdrawal from the French colonies". M Enderlin said that "a firm's first task was to produce and be economically viable. The personnel manager's tasks were essentially subservient to these goals".

The disturbances in May 1968 changed those tasks. More and more qualified people were sought who could defuse social tensions skilfully and incisively. The manager of personnel was "increasingly established in company management". The economic boom that was taking place at this time, with the accompanying need to find markets led to the replacement of traditional assessments by scientific approaches: the worker's suitability for his job became a method of rating.

The latest phase began with the oil crisis of 1973-74: "the economic crisis, unemployment and the worker's desire for a steadily-increasing standard of living, these have all made the company a focal point and centre for the tensions of life". Where the personnel manager had been the "executive" during the second phase, M Enderlin now sees him to a great extent as an "adviser and mediator".

In addition to his previous tasks, the personnel manager must now act "as an adviser to top management, to be a mediator in tense situations, and adapt the company's social strategy to its other key policies", according to M Enderlin. "And this state of affairs is being made worse by state interference, social legislation and other policies."

In West Germany, too, the status of personnel management has risen. "Companies today see personnel problems as being as important as finance or production decisions", Herr Hans Friedrich of the German Society for Personnel Management, Düsseldorf, says. An important influence has been the increase in labour legislation, legislation on company structure and social policy, which has been the spur for this development.

This resort to legislation to help to improve labour relations is typical only for West Germany: in other European countries such matters are dealt with by negotiations between the parties concerned. As early as 1951 West Germany had its first law to introduce equal representation on the advisory board in the coal, iron and steel industries. Other legislation at this time put worker directors into top management in public and limited companies. In 1976 not-quite-equal representation was introduced for firms with more than two thousand employees.

As a result of all this there are 200 personnel managers sitting on boards. Herr Friedrich believes that this figure will be more than doubled in the next few years. The other 3,000 personnel managers are directly below board level in their companies.

Together with the rise in status, the level of qualifications has also risen among personnel managers. Three quarters of managers and more than three fifths of personnel staff at managerial level have university degrees. At the middle and lower levels there are two schemes leading to the qualifications *Personalwirt* and *Personalfdchkaufmann*

"The involvement of personnel in the economic and social problems faced by firms is going to increase further", Herr Friedrich predicts in this review of future developments. The status of personnel departments will go up in West Germany, and there will be a corresponding increase in the use of scientific results and methods in commercial personnel administration.

This advance of personnel management into the boardroom has begun to show in Italy recently, particularly among the bigger companies. A decisive factor there is not just the recognition by top management of the importance of personnel selection, but also the question of relations with unions. There is no worker representation on company boards in Italy.

In practice, union influence on employment and investment planning is no less pervasive there than in those countries where codetermination is formally required. The main channel for this influence in Italy is the annual wage negotiations which supplement the general wage agreements, usually three-year agreements, and make adjustments for local circumstances.

Frequently in those negotiations the decisive element is company policies in personnel matters; for that reason alone, the company representatives in the discussions have to be either directors themselves, or close to board status. So far, naturally enough, only the bigger firms have drawn the logical conclusions, and those firms lay great emphasis on personnel questions. This trend towards upgrading the status of the personnel manager is becoming evident in middle-size firms as well, and that is reflected in the extent to which his salary is catching up with top management.

Staff welfare has a long history in Britain: in 1913 the Institute of Industrial Welfare Work was founded, which shifted the emphasis from welfare work to personnel. In 1946 it was incorporated in its present name, the Institute of Personnel Management. Mr Bernard Dixon, of the Institute, told how the personnel department in the 1950s was responsible for employing, looking after wages and salaries, training and negotiations with unions. During the next decade conditions changed even more quickly for personnel managers. New attitudes and methods were needed.

Mr Dixon says: "The influence of government became increasingly important, the difference between workers and staff disappeared with 'staff status' and interchangeability of jobs became more natural."

The trade unions' role also changed as the service industries expanded faster. In many industrial national wage negotiations were held at national level. Over the past 10 years, human relationships have become increasingly important. Mr Dixon noted that Britain is also showing the trend towards the personnel director, with his place at the top of the company hierarchy. That and other international effects—such as the rise in unemployment—are influencing the workings of the personnel department. According to Mr Dixon, "unemployment means that wages cannot be decided by market mechanisms any more".

The unions have also been increasing their power, and have begun to penetrate the "white collar" sector. The institute has grown along with the rise in importance of personnel; and this is not only shown in the increase in membership, which has grown from only 3,000 in 1950 to 18,500 now. Mr Dixon cites two particular instances, "the institute has developed its own training scheme which more and more personnel staff are taking up, and the Government is consulting the institute on increasingly important questions relating to personnel management".

Erwin Schneider

On the contrary

Alimentary, my dear Watson

"My dear fellow", said Sherlock Holmes, as we sat on either side of the fire in his lodgings at Baker Street, "we face a most intriguing series of mysteries."

"What are they, Holmes?"

"Alimentary, my dear Watson. There is the mystery of the mayonnaise from nowhere—surplus butter with a herbal flavouring. There is the Russian butter enigma or, to be more precise, that of the European butter sold cheaply to Russia but reappearing in Italy. You are familiar, of course, with the great butter mountain scandal, and the unfathomable wine lake. But have you heard of the phantom grain ship?"

"Phantom?"

"A figurative expression. It plied between Rotterdam and Antwerp, collecting export subsidies on every trip."

"Have the miscreants been apprehended?"

"I fear not. The real culprit is still at large."

"Professor Moriarty?"

"No, Watson: the complexity of our farm regulations. And I fear that they will worsen."

Just then, Mrs Hudson entered. "Three gentlemen to see you, sir."

"From Greece, Portugal and Spain, I wager. As I said, Watson, our problems become more baffling every day."

Pangloss

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

What is the NEB's philosophy?

castigators have already shown horror at a National Enterprise Board's successful tbidding of Trafalgar House to get control Fairey's British assets. It is the NEB's st full-blown bid against a rival bidder m the private sector, and the vision of NEB mobilizing its millions of taxpayers' ney to take out a business already esented with an alternative solution is e calculated *to stimulate outrage in the ivate sector.*

In fact this deal is not such a novelty. The B has already been involved in a bid ttle with Guinness over White Child & ney, although admittedly it did not make ull counter offer; it has always been its *ilosophy to invest in profitable concerns* well as the lame ducks dropped in its lap the *Government. The exit price earnings* io of just under 9 is by no means ofligate and the margin by which it has

NEB's other investments

npanies	% held	cost £'000
a Recording	57.4	3,137
ranti	50 0	
	100.0*	
bert	100.0	26,196
clair Radionics	73.3	650
	100.0*	1,200
bush Tanners Products	50.0	500
nbridge Instruments	46.3	1,770
	100.0*	550
nputer Analysts and Programmers	29.9	549
	24.4	12,083
craft	20.4	87
	100.0†	400
slime	26.0	504
inlock	33.3	997
own Boveri Kent	17.6	1,880
ancis Shaw	100.0	546

reference shares
on-voting.
n investments excluding British Leyland and Rolls-Royce

tbid Trafalgar is not excessive; and e-tax profits of £4.8m from companies quired for £20.5m comply with the 15-20 r cent return on capital criterion just outed for the NEB by Mr Varley, the dustry Secretary.

But the bid does raise again the more damental question of whether the NEB s a cogent investment philosophy or ether its spending is wholly piecemeal. is not clear what "industrial logic" lies hind this latest addition to the NEB's *rtfolio, a point which is bound to lend* ight to those who argue that its main *jective at the moment is simply to commit* money as quickly as it can so that its *scrambling by an unsympathetic Conser*tive government at some future date is de that much more difficult.

The other, more practical question is ether it is possible for any investing titution to make significant new equity estments successfully at the pace of the B. So far it seems to be going well cepting, of course, its lame ducks) but h has been the speed of investment that re are bound to be doubts about how nprehensively the NEB can monitor its sting commitments, let alone get involved new ones.

being highly dependent on South Africa and up against increasingly stiff competition *from much larger companies in Europe, can* —on these figures—both survive and grow.

This poses a problem for Johnson & Firth Brown whose 20 per cent holding must be burning a hole in its pocket having seen one bid, which would have given a handsome profit, pass out of the window. But *Osborn shareholders* may still need to be convinced that this level of profits is sustainable; the *improvement, coming in* such a short time, is quite remarkable. At 75p up 2p, the shares yield only 5.2 per cent, which even on this performance, still provides scope for speculative possibilities.

● *The Bank of England may have it within its power, for a short period at least, to influence domestic interest rates, but the Eurosterling market, a highly sensitive indicator of what foreigners holding sterling think of developments in the United Kingdom, is another matter. During the past few days the market has been showing in no uncertain fashion how dubious it is about the Bank's interest rate tactics, and yesterday Fisons was obliged to raise the coupon on its sterling Eurobond issue from 10 to 10¼ per cent and it looked very much as though Courtaulds might have to do something similar with its 9¾ per cent issue.*

It is an inauspicious start for a market that has been full of promise during the past few weeks for both issuers and investors. Selling was developing last Wednesday and by Friday the market was in full retreat. The Finance for Industry issue, priced on Friday, was particularly hard hit, reaching 96¾ last night compared to an issue of 99½ where it yields 10¼ per cent.

The first point to make is that investors evidently believe that, in spite of the Bank's restraining action, interest rates here are headed upwards. The second, and potentially more important point is that the rapidity of the setback and the evident willingness of investors to get out at the first sign of trouble, raises real question marks over the underlying strength of investment demand for sterling Eurobond issues.

Harrisons & Crosfield

A challenge in plantations

Having already beaten off one attack this year on part of its empire—then it was Golden Hope which was under attack—Harrisons & Crosfield is now facing another threat. This time it is by way of a bid for Malayalam Plantations from McLeod Russel.

McLeod, which already owns or has options on 29.99 per cent of Malayalam, is bidding 23p a share, valuing the entire company at £6.25m. With H & C and associates controlling 23.64 per cent and Malayalam (whose chairman, Mr Frederick Harper, is on the H & C board) rejecting the bid, the City scented an eventually increased offer and the shares rose 2p to 24½p.

Malayalam's situation is complicated as it prepares for Indianization since it is a hybrid company spanning both tea and rubber plantations.

In the absence of a defence document, Malayalam shareholders are going to have a difficult task of trying to assess the bid since the remittance of dividends from India is irregular in both *size and timing,* while the valuation of assets is not easy.

Malayalam is important to H & C since it controls some 2.8 per cent of Harrisons' Malaysian Estates. *Two other companies* held on similar minority holdings—London *and Sumatra and Harcros*—bring the holding up to around 10 per cent. If all three companies were taken out of the H & C camp it would make an awkward dent in H & C's control of HME which has still yet to reach full agreement with the Malaysian authorities on changing domicile.

During four months of abortive talks that followed McLeod's acquisition of the Malayalam stake, the possibility of selling the HME stake back to H & C was raised although McLeod appears to have been holding out for a higher value than the then stock market value. However, that did not get very far since H & C was unwilling to see Malayalam out of its grasp in the first place.

The bid does appear to have exposed a damaging gap in the minority cross holdings in the H & C empire.

nuel Osborn

hy Weir ent away

is easy to see from Samuel Osborn's full r results why the group failed to reach eement on terms for a take-over from the ir Group. Osborn was expected to make out £2.4m profit, but the actual instead the published outturn is £3.4m, and ir's calculations were almost certainly ed on the lower figure.

learly all the Osborn gain has come from steel activities, which, by rights, and in parison *with every other steel company,* uld have been having to pull all the s *out even to stand still. In the event* ding profits have risen from £273,000 to 3m, *so that the profits in the second-half* e were more than £1m.

he *explanation apparently* is that the lesfield plant, which the group moved some five years ago, has at last paid in terms of productivity, with higher ume and lower unit costs bringing big efits.

hus a company which looked hard ssed to survive as an independent unit

Eric Wigham

Blurred vision on union recognition

Sections of the Employment Protection Act on which the *TUC probably placed greatest* store, those dealing with trade union claims for recognition, have resulted in such a tangle of law suits and so much fruitless argument between the Confederation of British Industry and union leaders that there is talk about the desirability of repealing them al*together, particularly among* those responsible for implementing their provisions.

The TUC is concerned because in some respects the clauses threaten to override its own procedure for settling disputes between unions, the so-called Bridlington procedure. The CBI complains that the *way the Act is being interpreted* by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) is increasing trade union fragmentation and has *resulted in loss of confidence* among employers in the impartiality of the service. It is pressing for agreed criteria under which claims should be *decided.*

Both the TUC and the CBI have nominees on the council which runs Acas and its last few meetings have been devoted largely to arguments about recognition cases. Next week the council will meet again for a full discussion of the CBI demand for fixed criteria, though with little prospect of agreement. Meanwhile, *at least one private member's* Bill to amend the clauses will soon be presented to Parliament by a left-wing Labour member.

The seventh writ this year challenging the legality of *recognition claim handling* was served at the Acas office in Westminster last Friday. The Law Lords are meanwhile expected to give their verdict at last on the most publicized case, arising out of the Grun*wick dispute, before Christmas.*

Acas is obliged under the Act, if a claim for recognition for the purpose of collective bargaining is referred to it and cannot be settled by conciliation, to consult all the parties involved and to find out the opinions of the workers *affected before making* a report. The Grunwick case arose because Acas could not, and therefore did not, consult all the workers...

The latest writ, issued by a non-TUC union, the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE), questions a decision by Acas *not to recommend recognition* by an engineering company, although there was strong support for it among the workers. Of the other five writs one *affecting* the Legal and General Assurance Society was followed by court action which Acas lost. The other actions are still pending.

Besides these there was a threat of legal action by the Engineers and Managers Association (EMA) to force Acas to deal with a recognition claim for certain classes of engineers at a GEC plant at Whetstone. A *TUC disputes* committee ruled last March that the EMA contravened a Bridlington principle by organizing at Whetstone, where the technical and supervisory section (Tass) of the engineers union already had some members.

... a tangle of law suits and so much fruitless argument that there is talk about the desirability of repealing those sections of the Act altogether

Its finding was not only that EMA should stop recruiting and advise its Whetstone *members to join Tass, but also* that it should not proceed with any claim for recognition for the staff concerned.

The EMA refused to accept this and applied to the courts for an injunction to stop the *TUC from taking disciplinary* action against it. Section 118 of the Employment Protection Act declares void any provision in an agreement which precludes any person from making a reference to Acas.

The TUC gave an undertaking not to take disciplinary action on these grounds and the EMA *is now hoping* that the Acas council will decide to deal with its case at its meeting next week, which could make further legal action unnecessary.

Claims by EMA for recognition in the nationalized shipbuilding and aeronautical industries have still to come to a head.

The TUC is disturbed by the discovery that the Bridlington principles can be overruled by the Act. The November meet*ing of its employment policy* and organization committee discussed a paper which supported Acas recognition procedures and drew attention to *Acas successes, but expressed* concern at the growing use of the law. It argued strongly against attempts by the CBI to make a recommendation by the service conditional upon a union securing majority support among the workers concerned.

The TUC general council was already disturbed by the temporary suspension from membership of the Transport and General Workers Union because some of its draymen members had not implemented a disputes committee finding *that beer should be delivered* to the Fox and Goose hotel in the Midlands.

The handling of inter-union disputes will be among the *first questions to be taken up* by Mr Kenneth Graham, one of the two newly appointed assistant general secretaries. It was widely supposed that the creation of the new offices was intended to widen the field from which a successor to Mr Len Murray as general secretary might eventually be drawn, but it represents a more basic development in the TUC structure.

Mr Murray has clearly felt that the implications of the vast new responsibilities which *the TUC has undertaken in the* past few years are more than he has time to handle.

Mr Kenneth Graham, one of the TUC's newly appointed assistant general secretaries, who will be looking into the TUC's procedure for settling inter-union recognition disputes.

So, relieved of detailed departmental work, Mr David Lea will be free to give his mind to such matters as the social contract and the nation's economic strategy and Mr Graham to the new issues which have arisen in inter-union relations, partly as a *result of the Government's* labour legislation.

He has been asked to consider how the Bridlington principles can be made to stick in *spite of the law,* now that inter-union differences are much less frequently concerned than in the past with demarcation and much more with recruitment and recognition, particularly of white collar workers.

He will lay a lot of emphasis on settlements by conciliation rather than references to disputes committees and may on occasion take the initiative in bringing unions together where *they have a history of disagreement.*

The banks and commerce and white collar organizations in the engineering industry, are obviously fields which require his attention. His new status will not *doubt help him* in his meetings with union leaders.

The CBI wants changes in sections 11 to 16 of the Employment Protection Act, which deal with recognition *and the TUC may* well decide that changes are needed either in the Act or in the Bridlington principles, or both. But neither is at present talking *about abolishing those sections.* It is the officials of Acas who wonder how long they can go on working in the middle of a legal minefield.

They are charged under the Act to promote the improve*ment of industrial relations* and to encourage the extension of collective bargaining, but there are cases where the two objectives are mutually exclu*sive. When they refused to* recommend the recognition of URAPE, although the staff concerned wanted it, it was because they thought it would *worsen industrial relations* in the engineering industry.

On the other hand they have sometimes recommended recognition for small groups of workers where the known support has seemed to employers to have been insufficient.

If eventually it is decided *that sections 11 to 16 in their* present form are doing more harm than good, the TUC will certainly demand that something be put in their place. It never intended them to be used to deal with inter-union disputes and that was why employers are not empowered to make use of them—another CBI grievance. But the TUC wants a legal means for unions to secure recognition where it is denied them.

The shadow of Sindona over Banco di Roma

The troubles at Banco di Roma are not a typical banking crisis, but represent the latest chapter in the still unfinished Sindona saga, Italy's biggest politico-financial scandal since the war. There has been no sudden loss of confidence, no run on *deposits,* no fears of misappropriation of customers' funds.

In fact, the investigating magistrate is looking into allegations that the management did too well for clients—or important ones at least—by allowing those *who had allegedly exported* funds to be reimbursed on the eve of the Sindona collapse.

What led to the suspension of the two joint managing directors, Signor Mario Barone and Signor Giovanni Guidi, was *their failure to produce to the* Milan magistrate a list of more than 500 accounts with another Sindona bank, the former Finabank of Geneva. These accounts, it is maintained, belonged to customers of the Sindona banks in Milan, whose *lire* had been sent illegally to Finabank for conversion into foreign currency, then returned to Italy.

Since these now figured as foreign funds, the allegation goes, most were reimbursed *shortly before the crash.*

All this happened in late *summer 1974.* Banco di Roma, Italy's fourth biggest bank and a member of the vast parastatal Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), had by then taken control of Signor *Michele* Sindona's main Italian banking *and property interests.*

When public confidence in the United States was already faltering in Signor Sindona's Franklin Bank, Banco di Roma decided to support *him for* reasons which are not entirely clear, but which owe much to Professor Ferdinando Ventriglia, then deputy chairman.

Banco di Roma advanced Signor Sindona $100m and 63,500m lire (about £42m) against control of his two Milan banks *Banca Privata Finanziaria* and Banca Unione (merged in those last weeks before liquidation into Banca Privata Italiana) and ownership of his almost 40 per cent controlling shareholding in the international property company Societá Generale Immobilaire.

For the magistrate, the list has been a will of the wisp. Everyone knows about it, but no one has had it on his desk.

The obvious difficulties in the search have encouraged speculation that it may contain *political dynamite. An extreme* left-wing newspaper published names claimed to be on it, including several politicians, a businesswoman, a magistrate and a medical specialist.

The only hard evidence came from an admission in a press interview by Signor Mauro Leone, son of President Giovanni Leone, that the presidential family had had four personal bank accounts with the Rome branch of Banca Pri*vata Finanziaria.*

The Quirinal Palace has, however, denied any involvement of the President in improper activities

Whether the list is ever run to earth, the affair has proved damaging for Banco di Roma, which faces the task of restoring its image. It has been embarrassing for top executives to have their passports withdrawn and be unable to travel abroad on the bank's business.

Signor Barone also had the unwelcome experience of spending 24 hours in jail for alleged reticence before the magistrate.

The bank's immediate reaction was to extend the powers of the chairman, Signor Leopoldo Medugno, to strength*en the executive committee* and —only two days before it had issued a denial of any irregularities—to set up an internal inquiry.

Will these steps be enough? Even if they stop the immediate rot, the *trouble is that* the malaise is not limited to one bank but is widespread throughout public sector economic and financial structures.

An encouraging sign, at least, is that efforts are being *made to end the practice of* treating top banking posts as something for backstage party political bargaining and that parliament will in future first have to be consulted about them.

Nor has the Banco di Roma affair improved the image of IRI. Besides the financial difficulties of some of its leading member companies it has had its share of scandals, ranging from the *flight* abroad of Signor Camillo Crociani, former head of the Finmeccanica *engineering* sector, to charges pending against top executives of the shipping sector

What further chapters in the Sindona story have yet to come out? Banco di Roma still *has a residual share in Societá* Generale Immobiliare, whose survival remains in doubt.

The company, which by the irony of coincidence built the Watergate complex in Washington, has steadily accumulated *losses and debts to a pre*occupying level. Banco di Roma first ceded most of its holding to a group of Roman building contractors, but the problem was too big for them.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to *negotiate the entry of* the cooperative movement and then of Texan interests associated with Mr John Connally, the United States politician and financier.

The latest rescue reports are linked with the name of Signor Carlo *Pesenti,* the Bergamo banker and cement industrialist, but their outcome is uncertain.

Then there is the question of whether Italian justice will ever bring Signor Sindona to trial, along with his former right hand man (with whom he has fallen out), Signor Carlo Bordoni, now lying in a Venezuelan jail. Signor Sindona lives in an hotel in New York, where he is fighting a two-year-old Italian request that he *should be extradited on charges* of fraudulent bankruptcy, *arguing that he is the victim* of political persecution.

John Earle

Business Diary: Novel villainy • Scrooge in Brussels?

s Davies Business Diary's or, went to yesterday's tbread Literary Awards in don:

ironic that Edward Free-, the *hero* of Beryl Bainge's much-acclaimed novel, *ry Time,* should be an untant.

iss Bainbridge, who yester-*won the* £1,500 Whitbread e for fiction, may not know some time whether she can the money—as can a pools ner—or whether Sir William , *chairman of the Board of* nd Revenue, will take much t from her.

r William—and I should thought a former underetary at the Department of cation and Science would known better—is having e success in stopping untants from getting away hundreds of millions of nds through artificial tax *dance schemes* for comes and for rich individuals.

revenue men are, however, ing to recoup a little selfem, if far less cash, by *ing in the boot for* some inely productive people— hit, authors.

s my brother diarist ony Holden, Atticus of *The day Times, recently pointed* the Inland Revenue are ing a test case of a former tbread winner, Andrew le. They want a cut of his *prize for Poor, Dear dan,* appropriately enough biography of the founder he *Financial Times,* Bren-Bracken.

iss Bainbridge received her ue in London yesterday, as Shelagh Macdonald for her lren's book *No End to erday* and Juliet Nicolson *behalf of her father,* Nigel, is biography, *Mary Curzon.*

The cheques were presented by the chairman of Whitbread, Alex Bennett, who declared that he had read none of the books, but his wife had.

I asked Miss Bainbridge why she had made her hero an accountant, a member of a pro*fession not markedly attractive* to practitioners of fiction. "To disguise who I was writing about", she said. "I never write fiction, you see."

■ The EEC Commission, ever eager to prove that the common agricultural policy is a flexible and accommodating instrument, has tried to *turn complaints* about the butter "mountain" on their heads.

It has replied to those who demand that surpluses should be sold cheaply to consumers inside the EEC, instead of to outsiders like the Russians, by subsidizing a drastic price cut. It has answered those who condemn its plan to make mar*garine* as dear as butter by making butter as cheap as margarine.

The result is "Christmas butter", a chunk of 72,000 *tonnes from the Community's* ever-enlarging surplus, which shoppers all over Europe—with one important exception—can buy until the middle of January. *A regulation which says that* the words "Christmas butter" must be stamped on every packet is now in operation and causing alarm throughout the *butter trade.*

Traders fear that the presence of butter carrying a subsidy worth 18p a pound on sale next to normal shop supplies will merely disrupt the Christmas market and encourage hoard*ing by families* with freezers. The move will cost the Community budget 52 million units *of account,* or more than £30m.

The only snag is that Britain is left out. The Community is already spending 59 million units on a scheme which leads *to a subsidy worth 8p a pound* on all EEC-produced butter sold here.

■ Problems surrounding Britain's £115m *shipbuilding* contract with Poland, ranging from labour unrest to complaints about subsidizing "communist orders" and calls for a Parliamentary inquiry, are not, apparently, reaching the ears of *the Poles themselves.*

According to Andrei Konopacki, press counsellor at the Polish embassy in London, the order is "one of a series" and has *not aroused much interest* or emotion in Warsaw.

The widespread reporting of difficulties such as the overtime ban at Swan Hunter was, he said, "a typically British syndrome." It had become a suspense story true to the British character but nobody was making a fuss about it in Poland.

Reports that Poland was *demanding as a condition of the* contract assurances about labour relations were not true. "It is a contract with specific terms of delivery but the whole issue has *been overblown. The internal* relations between British Shipbuilders and the unions are not our affair."

Business Diary also spoke to W. Kornacki, of *Polish* radio and television in London, who confirmed that he had reported the communique issued after the official signing of the contract in *London. He told his* Polish audience that the orders would help to solve some of the unemployment problems in Britain and that both sides would reap some benefits.

But he had not reported any of the subsequent events because nobody in Poland would be interested

Photograph: John Manning

Unilever's Sir David Orr yesterday: who needs exchange controls?

■ There is obviously no chance of the Hambro Businessman of the Year award ever going em*barrassingly to a high-flying* newcomer whose wings might melt while the handsome silver trophy still stands freshly on the sideboard.

The *eighth winner of this* very establishment accolade is Sir David Orr, chairman of Unilever Ltd and deputy chairman of Unilever NV, who is *one of the three-man Special* Committee which runs the Anglo-Dutch multinational.

Sir David's career has been all solid achievement since at 26, with a first-class arts degree from Trinity College, Dublin, and a law degree in his pocket, he joined Unilever as a management trainee.

Sir David had flown in from the United States to collect the award in London yesterday. Talks are apparently still going on into Unilever's possible takeover there of National *Starch and Chemical. "We may* have something more to say soon", Sir David said.

His thank-you speech at the Savoy seemed apt enough in the circumstances. He said that with the chance offered by North Sea oil, Britain no longer needed exchange controls. Overseas investment must be made free again, because contrary to what the trade unions *particularly were afraid of,* investment abroad did not mean less investment at home.

He supported the familiar argument that overseas investment could create jobs at home by pointing out that this year Unilever was exporting some £400m worth of goods from the United Kingdom—more than half of it the result of investment abroad.

He added: "We have never in Unilever turned down an investment in the United Kingdom because we wanted the money to invest somewhere else."

One by-product of the hard times on which brokers and jobbers have fallen in recent years has been a "serious" depletion of the ranks of the Stock Exchange male voice choir. An appeal was circulated to exchange members yesterday by Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman, who is president of the choir. The choir will be able to present the annual Christmas concert at Carpenters' Hall tomorrow night, but recruits are needed now. He who would valiant be, let him come hither. Or is this an argument for bringing in more women?

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 5: The Duke of Gloucester was present at a Reception given by The Royal Warrant Holders Association at Goldsmiths' Hall this evening.
Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
December 5: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended a meeting of the Philanthropic Lodge at King's Lynn.
Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.
The Duchess of Kent, president of the Royal Smithfield Club, this afternoon visited the Royal Smithfield Show at Earls Court.
Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales will attend a carol concert at the Albert Hall, in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, on December 21.

Forthcoming marriages

Lord Elphinstone and Miss W. Chetwode
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Rev the Hon Andrew Elphinstone and of the Hon Mrs Andrew Elphinstone, and Willa, daughter of Major David and Lady Willa Chetwode.

Mr R. G. Barnes and Miss A. M. Hitchen
The engagement is announced between Riccardo George Barnes, 39 Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey, only son of the late Mr Arthur Barnes and of Mrs Barnes, and Alison Mackie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lionel Hitchen, Allos, 49 The Highway, Sutton, Surrey.

Mr R. A. Bunn and Miss C. A. O'Malley
The engagement is announced between Richard Ashley Bunn, of Blackheath, London, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. O'Malley, of St Ives, Sydney, Australia.

Mr J. R. Foster and Miss S. A. M. da Cunha
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr Donald Foster and Mrs Hilda Eaton, of Bowdon, Cheshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr F. A. L. da Cunha and the late Mrs da Cunha, also of Bowdon.

Whitbread award winners: The 1977 Whitbread Literary Awards, the final book prizes of the season, were presented yesterday. Three awards each worth £1,500, were made by the judges, Mr Anthony Hern, literary editor of the Evening Standard, Miss Lynne Reid Banks, the novelist, and Mr Frank Muir, the writer and broadcaster. The prize for fiction went to Beryl Bainbridge (left) for her novel, Injury Time (published by Duckworth). It was a particularly suitable award as Miss Bainbridge had been tipped to win the Booker Prize last month, but on her appointment as a judge ruled herself out of the reckoning. For the biography section the judges chose Mary Curzon, by Nigel Nicolson (centre), the story of the first wife of Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India (Weidenfeld & Nicolson). In Mr Nicolson's absence in the United States, the award was accepted on his behalf by his daughter, Juliet. The children's book award was won by Shelagh Macdonald (right) for No End to Yesterday (André Deutsch), the true story of her mother's childhood and upbringing. The awards were presented by Mr Alex Bennett, chairman of Whitbread.

Luncheon

League of Jewish Women
The Lady Mayoress was present at a buffet luncheon given by the International Council of Jewish Women Committee at St Bartholomew's Hospital yesterday, in celebration of the Queen's jubilee year, before the annual Human Rights Day meeting. Mrs R. Winston-Fox, British vice-president, International Council of Jewish Women, was chairman at the meeting and the other speakers, on the subject "Human rights, past, present and future" were Mrs D. Gainsford, chairman of the 35s Group, Dr I. Gordon, Mr C. Jacobs and Mr M. Savitt (Board of Deputies of British Jews) and Mr N. McIntosh (Director of Shelter).

Dinners

HM Government
Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, was the host at a dinner held in honour of delegates attending an international seminar on population and development problems, at Lancaster House yesterday. The guests included: Lord Houghton of Sowerby, chairman of the seminar, Baroness Llewelyn-Davies of Hastoe, representatives from Canada, Japan, America and Bangladesh and members of Parliament.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Mr Benjamin Ford, MP, Chairman of the British Group, Inter-Parliamentary Union, was host at a dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel last night, given in honour of a parliamentary delegation from Brazil led by Senator Francisco Accioly.

Mr R. P. Cooper
Mr Richard Cooper held the traditional dinner party for agriculturalists at Claridge's hotel last night on the occasion of the Royal Smithfield Show. The toast to agriculture was proposed by Mr Richard Cooper and responded to by Sir Nigel Strutt.

Mrs R. Graveson
Professor Ronald Graveson QC, and Mrs Graveson, gave a dinner in honour of Italy at Gray's Inn last night. The Italian Ambassador and Signora Ducci, Lord and Lady Edmund-Davies, Lord Justice Megaw and Dame Mary Green were the guests.

Mr F. Hallis's Chambers
Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, was guest at a dinner at the Café Royal last night given by colleagues in chambers to celebrate Mr Frederick Hallis's 50 years of practice at the Bar and more than 30 years of service as head of chambers.

Radleian Society
The annual dinner of the Radleian Society took place at the Hyde Park Hotel yesterday. The guests were Mr D. G. O. Ayerst, Mr M. M. Jones, Mr O. B. Popplewell, QC, the Warden of Radley College, Mr D. R. W. Silk, J. B. Hunter, senior prefect, and C. A. Stafford Smith.

King Edward's School Birmingham
London Old Edwardians held their traditional dinner on the eve of the Varsity Match at the RAC, Pall Mall, Mr T. J. Phillips presided, and Mr Russell W. Evans proposed The School. Other speakers were Mr Robson Fisher, chief master, Ian Keeling, school captain, Mr P. A. Gough and Mr F. D. Thacker.

Old Oundelian Club
The Old Oundelian Club held their annual dinner at the Tower of London restaurant yesterday evening. Mr Charles Simeons, president, was in the chair. Dr Barry Trapnell, Headmaster of Oundle School, Mr Michael Wates and Mr E. M. Viney also spoke.

Birthdays today

Mr Jack Ashley, MP, 55; Mr F. L. Chaplin, 72; Sir Alexander Ewing, 81; Dr James H. Griffiths, 69; Sir Denis Hamilton, 59; Sir William Keswick, 74; the Right Rev E. A. J. Mercer, 60; Professor Sir George Porter, 57; the Right Rev Ambrose Reeves, 78; Mr C. Washbrook, 63.

Marriage

Major P. Bell and Miss N. Howard-Baker
The marriage took place at St Silin's Llansilin, Clwyd, on Saturday, December 3, between Major Patrick Bell and Miss Nicola Howard-Baker. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Miss Katherine Bell and Grania Wills. Major Tom Wills was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Latest wills

Edith Bethia Cooper-Dean, of Bournemouth, farmer left £1,482,272 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax; tax not disclosed):
Brooks, Mr Frederick Yorke, of Edgbaston, property consultant £269,899
Claxton-Higgs, Mrs Florence Winifred, of Herne Bay £279,375
Dalton, Mrs Coralie Clara, of Frinton-on-Sea £187,776
Brydson, Mr Paul Reginald Benson, of Ulverston £142,479
Moody, Mr Robert Normount, of Newcastle upon Tyne, surveyor £139,599

Church news

Diocese of Coventry
The Rev A. J. M. Dow, curate of Christ Church, Chadderton, diocese of Manchester, to be Vicar of St Paul's, Leamington Spa.
Canon P. E. Moffatt, Team Rector of the Caludon Team Ministry, to be Vicar of Dunchurch with Thurlaston.

Diocese of Exeter
The Rev J. W. G. Godeck, Rector of Zeal Monachorum, Bondleigh and Broadwoodkelly, to be priest-in-charge of Dunchideock Shillingford St George and Ide.
The Rev P. J. McGee, Vicar of Exminster, to be priest-in-charge of Ottery St Mary and Alfington.

Resignations and retirements
The Rev P. Birkett, Rector of Holford with Dodington, diocese of Bath and Wells (Dec 31).
The Rev C. R. B. Coleman, Rector of Sampford Brett, diocese of Bath and Wells (Dec 31).
The Rev M. T. E. Hagarty, Vicar of Christ Church, Walmersley, diocese of Manchester (Jan 31).
The Rev L. W. Sapsford, Rector of Colton and Blithfield, diocese of Lichfield.

Church in Wales
The Rev A. J. Adams, Vicar of Risca and the Rev K. A. E. Tyte, Vicar of Malpas, to be canons of Newport Cathedral, diocese of Monmouth.
The Rev J. M. Riley, Vicar of Beddgelert and Bangor diocesan youth chaplain, to be Vicar of Towyn, same diocese.
The Rev G. W. H. Jones, Vicar of Betws-y-Coed with Capel Curig, diocese of Bangor, to be Rector of the rectorial benefice of Holyhead with Rhoscolyn and Llanfair yn Neubwll, same diocese.

Resignations
The Rev T. Owen, Vicar of Towyn, diocese of Bangor, on Dec 31.
Chancellor W. D. Parry, Vicar of Llandinam with Trefeglwys with Penstrowed, diocese of Bangor, on April 30.

RAF rescue crew to get awards

Three members of a rescue helicopter crew from RAF Valley, Anglesey, are to receive awards for saving a woman from a yacht lost in a gale.

Flight Sergeant Alan Gatrell, aged 33, will receive the Air Force Medal and Flight Lieutenants John Stirling, aged 35, and Christopher Gibbons, aged 29, Queen's Commendations.

£100,000 winner

The £100,000 Premium Savings Bond prize in the December draw, announced yesterday was won by SVF 606422. The winner lives in the London borough of Waltham Forest. The £25,000 prize was won by 8QP 632892. The winner lives in South Yorkshire.

Today's engagements

The Queen holds an investiture, 11.
The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, presents National Playing Fields' Association President's Certificates for 1977, Buckingham Palace, 10; as patron, visits Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Home for Aged, Wembley, 2.45; as president of National Federation of Housing Associations, visits North Kensington action area, 3.45; as patron and trustee, gives reception for Friends of Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Buckingham Palace, 6; as president of Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, dines with institute's Officers, Cavendish Hotel, Jermyn Street, 8.
The Prince of Wales attends annual dinner of Farmers' Club, Grosvenor House Hotel, 7.15.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother dines with Benchers, Middle Temple, 7.45.
Princess Margaret dines with Benchers of Lincoln's Inn, 7.15.
The Duke of Gloucester, as president, visits Royal Smithfield Show, Earls Court, 11.
Princess Alexandra visits Longcroft, Lancaster, on tenth anniversary year of the home, sponsored by Langley House Trust, 11.50; as Chancellor of Lancaster University, presides at congregation for conferment of higher degrees, 1.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball to be Deputy Commander-in-Chief, RAF Strike Command, from December 8, in succession to Air Marshal Alan Davies, who is to become Director of International Military Staff at Nato Headquarters in Brussels on January 1. Air Vice-Marshal John Gingell will become Air Member for Personnel with the acting rank of air marshal on February 25, in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, who is retiring. Air Vice-Marshal Charles Soutar will become Director-General of Medical Services (RAF) on February 28, with the acting rank of air marshal, in succession to Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Dhenin, who is retiring.
Mr Thomas Robson, of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, to be director of engineering in succession to Mr Howard Steele.
Mr Nicholas Freeman, a barrister, to be leader of Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, in succession to Sir Malby Crofton.
Mr D. P. Harrison to be a member of the Local Government Boundary Commission.

Record price for primitive carving from New Guinea

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A primitive wooden carving of a man from Lake Sentani in New Guinea brought 780,000 francs (estimate 600,000 to 800,000 francs) or £88,636 in a Loudmer sale in Paris last weekend, an auction record price for any tribal wood carving. The statue, about 3ft high, was acquired by Jacques Viot in 1929. To avoid destruction by missionaries the local people had hidden a number of the pagan statues by submerging them in various places in the lake. At Viot's instigation they agreed to retrieve them.

Viot had been working for Pierre Loeb, the French dealer, who paid for an extended expedition in return for such works of primitive art as Viot should discover. Loudmer were selling the Loeb collection, which also included a large Senoufo wooden bird from the Ivory Coast at 115,000 francs (estimate 100,000 to 130,000 francs) or £13,068. The Paris Musée de l'Homme pre-empted the purchase of two lots: a Dogon wooden statue of a man from Mali at 92,000 francs (estimate 30,000 to 50,000 francs) or £10,455 and a big wooden drum from New Guinea at 85,000 francs (estimate 50,000 to 70,000 francs) or £9,659.

Included in the same sale was a group of pieces from the private collection of René Rasmussen, the Paris dealer. A large ritual dance mask symbolizing the goddess of maternity from the Baga tribe of Guinea made 400,000 francs (estimate 250,000 to 400,00 francs) or £45,455, while a Senoufo wooden statue of a woman from the Ivory Coast made 29,000 (estimate 200,000 to 300,000 francs) or £32,955.

Atlases, which are always popular, especially for breaking up and framing, brought unexpectedly high prices at Sotheby's yesterday. A collection of 221 eighteenth-century engraved maps bound in three volumes went to Burgess at £21,000 (estimate, £3,000 to £4,000). Only three volumes out of four of The English Atlas, published in Oxford in 1680-82, went to the same purchaser at £11,000 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000). The sale totalled £133,069 with less than 1 per cent unsold.

Sotheby's glass sale contained an extremely rare pair of flasks painted in enamels by Ignaz Preissler, one of the most admired eighteenth-century outside decoratorsof glass and porcelain. On one, a plump Bacchus sits on a barrel crowned with vines; the grape harvest is depicted on the back. The other is decorated with a feast in a glade. The pair were sold to R. Zietz, of Germany, for £11,000 (estimate £8,000 to £12,000).

Other high prices included a Silesian commemorative goblet of about 1780 at £5,200 (estimate £1,500 to £2,000) and a Bohemian enamelled blue glass tankard dated 1608 at £4,600 (estimate £4,000 to £6,000). The Glasgow Museum paid £220 (estimate £80 to £120) for two engraved goblets of about 1820 from the factory of La Granja, in Spain. The glass sale made £106,756, with 12 per cent unsold.

The New Guinea statue sold for £88,636.

Methodist archives given to university library

From John Chartres
Manchester

The full archives of the Methodist movement, including John Wesley's letters, more than 26,000 books and a collection of manuscripts occupying 600ft of shelving, were handed over to the John Rylands University Library of Manchester yesterday.

The collection, added to present holdings, is expected to make the library the preeminent centre for the study of Nonconformity and the history of Dissent.

The library already holds much material relating to Methodists, Quakers, Unitarians and Moravians.

The Rev B. Arthur Shaw, President of the Methodist Conference, and Professor Sir Arthur Armitage, Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, signed the legal agreement for the transfer and deposit of the collection which has been housed at Epworth House, the Methodist Conference centre in London.

The archives include many letters of John Wesley, members of his family, and prominent people associated with Methodism such as John Fletcher, George Whitefield and Jabez Bunting. Eighty manuscript diaries and journals include those of Billy Bray, who survived a misspent youth to become one of the strongest figures in Cornish Methodism, and of Hugh Bourne, founder of the Primitive Methodist movement.

The printed works of John Wesley are represented by about 1,300 items, including most editions of his publications. There are also about 600 eighteenth-century volumes attacking him and his movement.

Other items include conference journals, minute books of district synods and printed conference minutes of all Methodist denominations at home and abroad. Circuit plans disclosing the activities of local preachers, biographies, brochures, periodicals, newspapers and class tickets throw light on the progress of Methodism and the stages in its development.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, Dec 5, 1952

Berlin restrictions

From Our Own Correspondent, Berlin, Dec 4.—The Communists continued today to interrupt and thoroughly to search motor traffic between east and west Berlin and to impound vehicles and to confiscate west and east marks found on the occupants. The west Berlin commandants have intervened as far as lies in their power by protesting individually to Mr Dengin, the Soviet representative in Berlin. As an example of the rigour with which the new laws are being applied, a west Berlin woman who bought two loaves of bread in east Berlin was sentenced today to one month's imprisonment; a woman who lent her identity card was given two months' imprisonment, and the woman who sold the bread was given four months' imprisonment.

Women's bridge contest won by wide margin

By Our Bridge Correspondent
There was a record entry of 44 teams for the English Bridge Union's women's championship for the Helena Rubinstein Cup, held at Eastbourne last weekend. After 10 matches of eight boards played in four pools, eight teams reached the quarter-finals, where the knock-out matches were of 32 boards.

Mrs G. S. Francis, Mrs W. W. Brown, Mrs P. D. Austwick and Mrs L. Hayes played outstandingly well to defeat the favourites Mrs S. Landy's team by 30 points in the quarter-final, and went on to beat Mrs A. L. Fleming's team in the semi-final by the same margin.

The final was disappointing, as a close match had been expected between Mrs Francis and the young British holders of the EEC championship. Mrs Francis took an early lead of 15 points and steadily increased her score for a final margin of 84—44. Results: Quarter-finals: Mrs A. L. Fleming beat Mrs C. Duckworth, 62—43; Mrs M. Edwards beat Miss I. Ashcroft, 94—59; Mrs G. S. Francis beat Mrs S. Landy, 63—33; Mrs D. J. M. Carpenter beat Mrs S. L. Jones, 68—14. Semi-final: Mrs G. S. Francis, Mrs W. W. Brown, Mrs P. D. Austwick, Mrs L. Hayes beat Mrs A. L. Fleming, Mrs V. A. Bingham, Mrs P. M. Williams, Mrs G. C. H. Fox by 70—40; Mrs D. J. M. Carpenter, Miss P. Davies, Mrs M. Brunner, Mrs R. Hudson beat Mrs M. Edwards, Miss E. Pritchard, Mrs M. Granth, Mrs R. F. R. Phillips by 54—30. Final: Mrs G. S. Francis beat Mrs D. J. M. Carpenter, 84—44.

The Plate was easily won by the seeded team containing the former world champions, Mrs Rixi Markus and Mrs J. Durran, who had narrowly failed to qualify for the quarter-final of the main championships.

Plate results: 1, Mrs G. A. Pike, Mrs S. W. Thomas, Mrs R. Markus, Mrs J. Durran, 132; equal 2, Mrs P. A. Broke, Mrs F. H. Addison, Mrs N. Campbell, Mrs P. Bloomer, 106; equal 2, Mrs C. Duckworth, Mrs F. To, Mrs N. Tumkin, Mrs C. Cohen, 106.

Second Severn road bridge may be built

From Our Own Correspondent
Cardiff

Department of Transport officials are investigating the possibility of building a second road bridge across the Severn to connect Wales and England, it was confirmed yesterday. The study has been prompted by increasing demands on the present box-girder bridge and the projected bigger traffic flows.

It is understood that the planners have not ruled out the possibility of incorporating a new road into a barrage scheme across the estuary to harness tidal energy.

A new eight-lane bridge would cost more than £100m and would be the largest construction of its kind in Europe. If it is finally approved it is understood that work would start in the late 1980s for completion in the early 1990s.

Since the present bridge was built in 1966 at a cost of £12m, the volume of traffic has risen steadily. More than 10,500,000 vehicles used it last year.

For many months vehicles using it have been restricted to one lane in either direction while workmen have been doing repairs.

Officials say the present bridge is safe but did that the work is necessary to avoid the possibility of costly damage, which might occur in extreme traffic conditions.

University news

Cambridge
Appointments and elections
Lecturer: D. R. H. Jones, MA, PhD, from January 1 for three years, in engineering.
CLARE COLLEGE: Dr S. R. Reid, university lecturer in engineering, a fellowship in class B; Dr Kingman Brewster, US Ambassador, to an honorary fellowship.
EMMANUEL COLLEGE: Professor J. C. Holt, MA, DPhil, professor-elect of medieval history, to a professorial fellowship from October 1, 1978.
GIRTON COLLEGE: L. W. Hall, PhD, reader in comparative anaesthesia, to a lectureship in veterinary medicine and an official fellowship from January 1.

Wales
SWANSEA: Lecturers: M. E. Loveridge, BA (Cantab), English; N. Balgent, MSc (Econ) (London), Economics; A. C. Twelvetrees, BA (Wales), Social Policy; P. W. Grant, BSc (Manchester), DPhil (Oxon), Computer Science; P. Styles, BA (Oxon), Geology; P. A. Tyler, BSc, PhD (Wales), Oceanography.

Grants
From Science Research Council: £26,900 for research into high temperature creep and fracture behaviour of magnesia and dolomo refractories, by Dr B. Wilshire; £16,270 for a project on equilibrium casting of metal strip, by Professor A. R. E. Singer; £26,450 for research into formation and solidification of thin metal films using a twin roller process, by Professors A. R. E. Singer and H. N. V. Temperley.

East Anglia
Appointments
Lecturers: L. J. W. Barrow, BA (Cantab), PhD (London); Linda M. Gillman, BA (Cantab) and A. H. White, BA, MA (Birmingham), English and American Studies; M. P. Atkinson, MA, PhD (Cantab), Computing Studies; R. Feldman, BA (London), PhD (Sussex), and H. Remazanoglu, PhD (Istanbul), Development Studies; G. Biezyta, BSc, MA (Sussex), V. Geoghegan, BA (Newcastle), S. P. Hargreaves-Heap, BA (Oxon), P. K. Lawrence, BA (East Anglia), M.A (Lancaster), M. J. Prior, BA (McGill), MSc (Trinity College, Dublin), and J. H. Wyllie, BA (Stirling), MA (Leicester), Economic and Social Studies; K. H. Tschachler, MagPhil (Graz), European Studies; B. Labboff, BA (Trinity, Dublin), MA (East Anglia), Applied Research in Education.

City
Honorary degrees were conferred yesterday on the following by Air Commodore Sir Peter Vanneck, chancellor of the university:
DLitt: Sir Denis Hamilton, chairman and editor-in-chief, Times Newspapers; Lord Harcourt, chairman of the board of governors of the Museum of London; Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank.
DSc: Sir Claus Moser, Director of the Central Statistical Office; Sir William Harris, a past president of the Institution of Civil Engineers; and Mr D. W. Barrett, a member of the university council.

OBITUARY

MR DAVID BRUCE

Valuable diplomatic service to the United States

Mr David Bruce, United States Ambassador in London 1961 to 1969, died yesterday at the age of 79. He was often described as the most distinguished senior diplomat in America—a claim more than justified by his extraordinary career. He served six Presidents from Truman to Ford as Ambassador. This included three years in France, three in the Federal Republic of West Germany and eight in London, but then a year after his retirement he was recalled to lead the United States delegation to the Paris peace talks on Vietnam and he was then again chosen—and widely regarded as the obvious choice—at the age of 75, to the unobtrusive but key post in Peking when the first United States mission to China for 24 years returned there in 1973. Finally he became United States Representative on the Nato Council, but resigned at the end of 1975 at the age of 77.

David Bruce who was of Scottish descent was born in Baltimore in 1898 into the full American purple. His father was Senator William Cabell Bruce of Maryland. His family for three generations had owned large and beautiful estates in Maryland and Virginia. With that he inherited the Southern landed gentry's strong tradition of public service.

He had spent a few months at Princeton when the United States's entry into the First World War wrenched his life from its peaceful setting. Bruce volunteered as a private and ended the war as a gunner officer. On return home he took a law degree and was elected to the Maryland legislature in 1924 but after one session of two years, he took a post as Vice-Consul in Rome where for the next two years he broadened and deepened a growing knowledge of foreign affairs and also those strong cultural interests which gave him a wide and informed charm in any company, and made him throughout life one of the most civilized men of his time. Among many other things he helped organize the establishment of the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

Bruce then returned to a growing law practice but the between-war years were mainly spent in managing Stanton Hall, the family estate in Virginia, and also extensive business interests largely in banking and publishing.

In 1940 Bruce was back in Europe, as chief representative of the American Red Cross in London and in 1942 he was given charge of the United States Office of Strategic Studies, also in London.

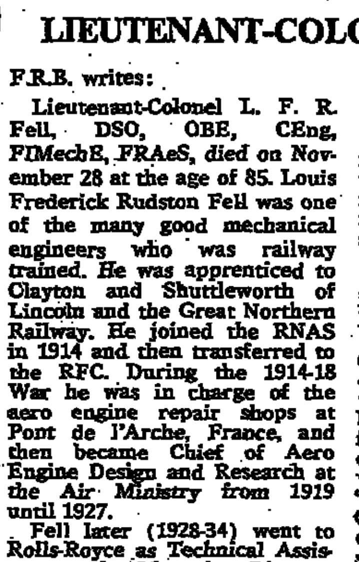
He returned to the important government post of Assistant Secretary of Commerce, but in 1947 was appointed as chief administrator of Marshall Aid in Paris, and he then remained for over 20 years at the centre of relations between the United States and Europe—as Ambassador to France from 1949 to 1952; Under-Secretary of State; special observer to the European Defence Community; special representative to the European Coal and Steel Community; and, from 1957 to 1959 Ambassador to the Federal Republic, soon after which in 1961 he began his eight years as Ambassador in London.

Fittingly his political testament was most clearly expressed at a Pilgrims' Dinner on February 18, 1969. "By contrast with other civilizations", he then said, "that of the West today is paramount, morally, spiritually and materially. Our most vociferous critics are those who apply a double standard to their political behaviour. . .". As for Europe he said in 1961: "We need allies certainly, but we need them with more cohesion".

As a diplomat Bruce's greatest virtue was his capacity always to view day-to-day events with the eye of a wise historian. Towards the end of his years in London he even seemed to hanker for the academic life. In manner he epitomized his gentlemanly Virginian background, but at need he could speak plainly. Diplomats, he believed, could still influence events by their reporting, but only if their reports were read. His own delight in good professional work—in a clear and cogent dispatch, for instance—was a delight and encouragement to his staff whom he rode with the lightest of light reins. He was also a good and sensitive listener with the abundant tact and humour to surmount many a difficult encounter—when faced, as he often was, with men as awkward and unpredictable as President De Gaulle or Lord George-Brown.

In 1968, before leaving London, Bruce bought a flat in the Albany and he continued to visit London privately, but also on special missions for the United States Government when the United States pursuit of détente with the Soviet Union brought with it a need of increased care to maintain close relations with Europe.

He finaly resigned at the end of 1975 at the age of 77.



Bruce was married twice. His first marriage to Miss Ailsa Mellor, daughter of Mr Andrew Mellor, the former Secretary to the United States Treasury, and heiress to one of the greatest fortunes in the world, caught the attention of the whole United States at the time. There was one daughter of the marriage, but in 1945 it ended in divorce. Bruce then married Evangeline Bell, who had worked in his wartime office in London, and whose father, Edward Bell, had been United States Chargé d'Affaires in Peking. Throughout his subsequent diplomatic career "Evie" Bruce was of the greatest possible assistance to her husband. Of this marriage there were two sons and a daughter, who died in 1975.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL L. F. R. FELL

F.R.B. writes:

Lieutenant-Colonel L. F. R. Fell, DSO, OBE, CEng, FIMechE, FRAeS, died on November 28 at the age of 85. Louis Frederick Rudston Fell was one of the many good mechanical engineers who was railway trained. He was apprenticed to Clayton and Shuttleworth of Lincoln and the Great Northern Railway. He joined the RNAS in 1914 and then transferred to the RFC. During the 1914-18 War he was in charge of the aero engine repair shops at Pont de l'Arche, France, and then became Chief of Aero Engine Design and Research at the Air Ministry from 1919 until 1927.

Fell later (1928-34) went to Rolls-Royce as Technical Assistant to the Managing Director (Basil Johnson and, later, A. F. Sidgreaves). He was, in 1934, appointed Chief Engineer (aero engines) of Armstrong-Siddeley but returned to Rolls-Royce as Chief Power Plant Engineer in 1939 until 1945, where he held various positions, later becoming Manager of the Railway Traction Department, 1957-60, and finishing there as Consultant on Railway Tractions to Rolls-Royce, 1960-62.

The above gives in chronological order, the appointments held during a long career. But as a young man in the First World War and running the engineering of the engine repair shops at Pont de l'Arche, under the capable and pleasant CO, Captain Hynes, Fell and his team, starting from scratch, showed considerable ability and capability in arranging engine repair and quick turn-around on a great variety of engine types. By 1918, Pont de l'Arche had already expanded up to 5,000 service men and women and 100 officers, with Fell as Chief Engineer.

The Pont de l'Arche group innovated as well as repaired, rebuilt and tested engines. For instance, they designed and made high compression piston sets for the Hispano engine which powered SE5 and SPAD fighters, to improve the fighting altitude on the Western Front.

To Fell must go the credit of drawing up a schedule of engine Type Approval Tests (Type test), in order to establish a standard of reliability for all engines. The first engine submitted to the test was, apparently, the Cosmos "Jupiter" (before Bristol took Cosmos over); and actually conducted by Fedden, personally, and his able chief designer "Bunny" Butler. The official Air Ministry type test was elaborated and improved upon over the between-war years by the capable Andrew Ross (Major A. A. Ross) of the AID, to become, practically, an international standard.

I worked under Fell's (Air Ministry) control when I was chief experimental engineer at Peter Hooker Ltd (The British Gnôme and Le Rhône Engine Company) and was developing a large airship engine of 1,500 bhp, from six cylinders, and also an engine coming from Fell's brain called the "combined cycle unit"; the latter being a four-cylinder opposed, two-stroke engine, having two crankshafts geared together, one running at twice the speed of the other. The idea was to extend the expansion stroke and so improve fuel-economy. However, both these engines "died" with the demise of Hooker's in 1927.

FERDINANDO GILLAUME

Ferdinando Guillaume, a comedian of the silent cinema who was better known by the nickname of Polidor, has died at the age of 90. He starred in many short silent films during the period 1911-21. Later he performed on the stages as a clown. Old and almost forgotten, he was called back to films by Federico Fellini, who gave him short roles in some of his films, including that of the little old clown who played with balloons in La Dolce Vita.

CARDINAL TRAGLIA

Cardinal Luigi Traglia, Deacon of the Sacred College of Cardinals since 1974, died in Rome on November 22 aged 82. Ordained in 1917 Traglia held degrees in philosophy, theology and canon law from the Gregorian University in Rome. His name became known internationally in 1960 when he warned Catholics that it was impossible for them, for patriotic reasons, to link with Marxists, and that events in Cuba provided a serious warning for the Italians.

Science report

Zoology: Control of lifespan

What determines the lifespan of a mouse or a man remains a mystery; but for an octopus, according to Dr Jerome Wodinsky at Brandeis University in the United States, lifespan is programmed by hormones. Before laying her eggs, a female octopus may eat from 5 to 10 per cent of her body weight a day and will start to copulate even before she is sexually mature. After spawning, however, she loses interest in food and sex and concentrates on brooding her eggs. About 10 days after eggs have hatched, she dies.

Death soon after spawning is a mode of population control common to several species, including molluscs, spiders and fish. Dr Wodinsky has discovered that in octopus, the sacrifice can be prevented by the removal of the optic glands, the only known endocrine gland of the octopus.

Females from whom the optic glands have been removed a few days after spawning do not brood their eggs. Instead, they continue to feed as usual and to copulate. They may survive for as much as nine months after the eggs hatch.

The lifespan of males can be prolonged in the same way. Presumably, the young survive better if after hatching there is no parental competition for food. Natural selection has thus shaped octopus evolution so that the animals are hormonally programmed to die early. Dr Wodinsky has established that they do not die of starvation, but it is not known what causes their death.

By Nature-Times News Service.
Source: Science, December 2 (198, 948; 1977).
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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

For Saving Investing and House-Purchase
HALIFAX
BUILDING SOCIETY

£20.5m offer by NEB beats Trafalgar House move to buy Fairey companies

/ Bryan Appleyard

In a move described as "outgeous" by Mr Victor atthews, deputy chairman of afalgar House, the National nterprise Board has successlly topped his company's fer for the non-aviation busiss of the Fairey Group.

The £20.5m NEB offer for 11 the 14 companies in Fairey as accepted by its Receiver, r. Charles Hardie, last night ter Trafalgar had offered her £18m for the 10 profitle companies or £16m for the iole group.

Mr. Matthews responded by ying that Trafalgar had been ised".

"I think it is outrageous. We e a strong commercial group d it is not the NEB's job to tervene in this kind of uation".

He added that he believed the afalgar price had been at the p end of the range and flected the company's belief at Fairey would have fitted in ll with Trafalgar.

The NEB offer, which reprents a premium over net asset lue, is for all Fairey's United ngdom operating companies cluding Britten-Norman embridge), Fairey Stainless d Fairey Electronics.

Sir Charles said the comnies being purchased made pre-tax profits of £4.8m last year and should make about the same in the current year.

The directors of Fairey have three months to submit a statement of affairs but the provisional statement shows liabilities of £28m plus interest. Preferential creditors, secured claims and bank loans guaranteed by the companies being sold come to £21m and unsecured claims to £7m. There will also be a substantial unsecured capital gains tax liability.

Investment in the Belgian subsidiary and Britten-Norman together with advances totals £16m and loans to the Belgian company guaranteed by the Fairey company come to £41m plus interest.

Sir Charles said the final outcome for unsecured creditors and remotely for shareholders would substantially depend on the dividend from the liquidation of the Belgian company.

Negotiations are continuing for the sale of Fairey Stainless and Fairey Electronics. Short Brothers, the state-owned aircraft company, has made approaches for the aircraft businesses. Britten-Norman is said to be now doing well, though the outcome of its receivership will not be known for some months.

The NEB intervention came under Parliamentary fire last night as Mr Michael Grylls, MP, the vice-chairman of the Conservative Industry Committee, said he would be asking whether it was part of the NEB's function to use taxpayers' money to outbid private companies.

He said he could understand a "hospitalization" role for the board, but it should not be able to compete in takeovers and offer exaggerated prices.

Mr John Murray, divisional director of the NEB, said last night that there was no question of job-saving in the offer. He said the board's advisers, S. G. Warburg, had described this as a fair and reasonable price to pay for the companies.

He said the offer had been made to keep the group together and because several lines in the group fitted the industrial strategy.

He added that the NEB had been asked to look at Fairey before the receiver had been called in and had been generally involved for much longer than Trafalgar.

The companies being acquired add 3,500 employees to the NEB payroll, half of them at Fairey Engineering at Stockport.

Financial Editor, page 19

Mr Rippon takes place of Sir James

By Ronald Pullen, Banking Correspondent

Mr Geoffrey Rippon, MP for Hexham, is replacing Sir James Goldsmith as chairman of Britannia Arrow Holdings, the renamed Slater, Walker Securities, as part of the restructuring of the board foreshadowed at last month's annual general meeting.

Also retiring from the board are the merchant banking representatives—Mr Charles Hambro and Mr Peter Hill-Wood, of Hambros, and Lord Rothschild and Mr Ivor Kennington, of N. M. Rothschild—who were drafted in under the auspices of the Bank of England just over two years ago to provide heavyweight support to Sir James.

Sir James was brought in in October, 1975, to steer the banking and property group out of its financial difficulties following the resignation of Mr Jim Slater, who left because of "the growing publicity concerning the dispute with Haw Par".

With the departure, too, of Mr Robin Whitten and Mr Colin MacInnes, whose departure was also announced yesterday because they no longer have a role to play in the slimmed-down group, the only member of the old Slater guard to remain is Mr Brian Banks, whose stewardship of the investment management side of Slater, Walker was the only area to get a fairly clean bill of health in the joint accounts' report on the group. He is stepping up as group managing director.

Joining Mr Banks on the board are Mr Michael Newman, as finance director, and two non-executive directors, Mr Louis Sherwood, whose City directorships include Anglo-Continental, now subsumed in Sir James Goldsmith's Générale Occidentale, and Mr Kevin Ney, of accountants Tansley, Witt.

Mr Geoffrey Rippon (left) with Mr Brian Banks (centre) and Sir James Goldsmith.

Mr Banks said yesterday that he would continue to concentrate the activities of the group on the investment management and insurance businesses and that he viewed the boardroom changes as the final proof that the group had survived the traumas of the past couple of years.

Mr Rippon, whose previous stints in business have included the chairmanship of Holland, Hannen & Cubitts and directorships of Fairey and Bristol Aeroplane, is also on the board of Dun & Bradstreet.

Apart from his House of Commons duties, Mr Rippon is Conservative group leader in the European Parliament in Strasbourg and a practising barrister. Best known politically for negotiating Britain's entry to the EEC when Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr Rippon was the first Conservative politician to decline frontbench office when Mrs Thatcher became leader.

Commenting on his role at Britannia Arrow, Mr Rippon said that he saw his job as "ensuring that a progressive, conservative policy is followed". In this aim he will continue to be advised by Hambros and Rothschild, whose services will continue to be available to the board as joint financial advisers to the company.

£60m plan to build skills for Britain of the 1980s

Skilled labour shortages, which despite high unemployment levels have bedevilled specialized areas of industry, are to be tackled in a new programme involving a contribution of "up to £60m" of public money.

The plan, to come into full effect not later than autumn, 1979, aims to discourage a stop-go attitude to training and prevent persistent skill shortages. Companies will receive aid in cases where it is "essential to secure adequate training".

The programme is set out in a Manpower Services Commission (MSC) report, *Training for Skills*, which has received government blessing. The report is the result of inquiries by a task group including representatives of the Confederation of British Industry, the TUC, the education service and industrial training boards.

Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, said the programme was designed to meet the needs of the expected economic expansion in the 1980s. Companies would have to measure up to certain criteria before receiving support, he emphasized.

The report proposes:

1. Each sector of industry and commerce should assess its future manpower needs realistically, and take action to prevent serious skill imbalances developing.
2. The Manpower Services Commission should coordinate action where imbalances in a particular skill would affect several industries.
3. Industrial training boards and other competent organizations should identify cases where they need additional help.
4. The MSC should provide such help once satisfied that it is really required.

A joint statement by the Department of Employment and the MSC said a high priority would be given to setting in hand immediately an industry-by-industry review of skills provision. Industry would be given extra help where essential to secure adequate training. Special attention would be given to supporting the Government's industrial strategy.

The inquiry was headed by Mr Richard O'Brien, chairman of the MSC, who said the commission would discuss the report with education authorities. Industry now spent £375m a year on first-year craft and technician training.

Training boards and other organizations in industry and commerce will be invited to submit proposals for action to the MSC by autumn next year.

The report says the main obligation "to make the labour market work more effectively" rests with employers and unions, who had it in their power to reach agreement on industrial practices whether at plant, company or industry level. The MSC should intervene only where it was clear that that was the only way of securing important aims.

Christopher Thomas

EEC summit heads hold out little hope of early drop in jobless total

om Michael Hornsby
ussels, Dec 5

A gloomy picture of the onomic prospects for Europe the years immediately ahead erged at the opening here day of a two-day meeting of C heads of government. ttle hope was held out by any those present of an early turn to growth or a reduction unemployment.

Giving a warning against king too sombre a view, esident Giscard d'Estaing of ance said that the unprecentedly high level of jobless mained "a black spot".

It was clear that the Nine ould have to live with lower owth for several years.

In an apparent reference to ritish and American suggesons that Germany should lay a more vigorous "locootive" role in stimulating orld economic activity, Herr chmidt, the German Chanllor, gave a warning against inaceas advanced for opporistic reasons.

There were no easy answers the problems of recession, inflation and high unemployment, and the creation of "printing press money" was no solution either for the United States or for Europe, Herr Schmidt said. The EEC had in effect been financing the large American trade deficit by buying dollars.

The exchanges on the economic situation came after Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the European Commission, had outlined his plans for relaunching the EEC on the path to economic and monetary union.

Accepting that a single European currency and a central monetary authority could only be a long-term goal, Mr Jenkins none the less argued that the preparation for this objective could play a positive role in helping to solve current economic problems.

The Commission's scheme envisages at first a five-year period during which EEC member states would increase the coordination of the management of national economic policies and seek to promote a greater cohesion between European currencies.

For Britain, Mr Callaghan said that he welcomed the Commission's attempt to rethink the whole concept of economic and monetary union, and promised that his Government would participate constructively. But he had yet to be convinced that the new approach had any advantages.

In separate discussions on a related Commission proposal for raising a £650m loan on the international capital market to finance new job creating investment, Herr Schmidt indicated that Germany's attitude would depend in part on the settlement of the dispute over the size of next year's regional fund.

The commission has proposed allocating £488m next year to the fund, which is designed to bring about a transfer of wealth from the richer to the poorer regions of the community. The Germans have said that they think this is too generous, while the French are pressing for a bigger share

Two steel closures at reprieved Tees works

By Our Industrial Correspondent

British Steel has taken the first steps towards the phased rundown of steelmaking at its South Works at Hartlepool on Teesside. The works, one of those reprieved by the Government after the Beswick review of the corporation's plant closure programme, employs about 3,000.

Steelmaking at the works which has been operating at low levels for over two years will be suspended indefinitely from this weekend and primary rolling activities will end on December 23.

About 1,500 workers will be affected by the shutdowns. It is expected that they will all be retained and paid on the basis of the corporation's guaranteed week arrangement under which workers receive about 80 per cent of their basic weekly wage.

Ironmaking at the South Works has been suspended since the end of September when about 160 members of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen opted to take voluntary redundancy settlements.

The BSC has made no statement about the future of the works, but it seems clear that divisional executives are preparing to phase out the operations of the works in line with the Beswick review recommendations. Under that review the plant, which has five open hearth furnaces—only two of which have operated consistently since the beginning of 1975—reprieved till the end of this year or early 1978.

Closure of steelmaking and the mothballing of the primary rolling mill reflected the poor state of trade, the corporation said last night. But it seems clear the BSC hopes workers will consider voluntary redundancy arrangements.

Plate mill operations will continue at the Hartlepool works with the plant drawing its supplies of continuously cast slabs from other BSC works at Lackenby. But the outlook is far from bright.

Orders for the first three months of next year are equivalent to about 2,000 tonnes a week against the plant's annual gcapacity of 450,000 tonnes.

As part of the overall cost pruning taking place within the BSC in the face of expected losses for this year of at least £500m a blast furnace is being closed down at the Shotton works later this month.

Govan shop stewards reject Swan plea to 'black' Polish ships

By Peter Hill

Shop stewards at the Upper Clyde yard of Govan Shipbuilders yesterday rejected an appeal to "black" any of the ships reallocated to it from the Tyneside yard of Swan Hunter under the £115m Polish agreement.

The stewards, who met after the reassignment of one of seven 16,500 ton deadweight bulk carriers to Govan from Swan Hunter because of an overtime ban by outfitting workers at the latter, called on the outfitting workers to abandon their industrial action and pursue their claim through normal negotiating procedures.

But a statement issued by Mr James Airlie, the Govan convener, avoided committing the Govan workers to construction of the ship.

Mr Airlie noted that the keel of the ship would not be laid for some months and the Govan stewards were hopeful that a settlement of the Tyne dispute would be achieved.

"Our statement is quite clear", he said. "We have had a request by telegram from the Swan Hunter outfitters to black the Polish order. We will not black the Polish order. It is our view that all the 24 vessels must, and will be built in British yards. Any barriers or problems that jeopardize all or part of that order must be removed."

The Govan stewards, he continued, would be willing to enter discussions on the reallocation of the one ship order already switched from the Tyne to the Clyde.

Mr Arthur Scott, Tyneside secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding Unions, said he did not expect the "statesmanlike" decision of the Govan men to have any direct impact at Swan Hunter.

"If the lads here are going to change their minds it is going to be as a result of formulas arrived at here", he said.

But while British Shipbuilders will undoubtedly derive some satisfaction from the Govan statement, the stewards made clear their determination to make a firm stand on the issue of contraction and redundancy within the industry.

Two other bulk carriers originally earmarked for the Tyne, worth a total of £52m and forming a substantial slice of the Polish shipbuilding deal, have so far been reassigned.

Both have been placed with Smith's Dock on the Tees, where workers have provided assurances of industrial peace.

The remaining four have still to be placed and British Shipbuilders is still hopeful that they can be confirmed with Swan Hunter.

But the state corporation is under growing pressure. It will be required within the next two weeks to confirm the allocation of the orders with the Polish authorities under the agreement, specifying delivery schedules.

Two officials from British Shipbuilders were due to travel to Poland today, but the visit has been postponed until later this week to enable details of the charter arrangements for the ships to be completed. Signing of the contract is scheduled for about December 19.

There have been reports that Japanese shipbuilders have been showing renewed interest in the bulk carriers in the wake of the intransigence by the outfitting workers on Tyneside.

Intervention fails to prevent fall in dollar

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

The dollar fell sharply in hectic trading throughout Europe yesterday in spite of heavy intervention by central banks in Germany and Switzerland.

Sterling rose by 1 cent against the dollar from its Friday level to close at \$1.8305, after having touched \$1.8340. The pound's effective rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to reach 63.5 per cent of its 1971 level.

Most of the strain caused by speculation against the dollar was borne by the currencies within the European "snake", where relatively weaker currencies such as the Belgian franc had trouble keeping pace with the very strong gains being recorded by the Deutsche mark, in spite of very heavy intervention by the Federal Bank.

The dollar's weakness renewed pressure on the stability of the joint European float, though all currencies within it seem to have received some funds fleeing from the American currency, whose effective rate as computed by Morgan Guaranty Trust now shows a 2.8 per cent depreciation from its 1971 parity, compared to only 2.05 per cent on Friday. There was also heavy buying of Swiss francs.

Other currencies such as the yen, which has recently been very strong, saw virtually no buying interest.

Fisons £10m issue: Deteriorating conditions in the sterling Eurobond market have led to Fisons raising the coupon on its £10m issue. The rate was put up from an indicated 10 per cent to 10½ per cent and the price was fixed at par.

Financial Editor, page 19

Higher pay burden on industrial costs

ontinued from page 1

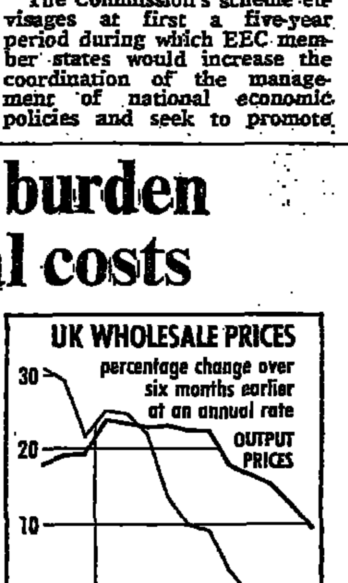
pears to have been an import t contributory factor.

Prices in the vehicle sector ere rising in the summer me four times faster than in e last three months. In the od sector, lower coffee prices ve been an important factor.

For the future, one of the y indicators of prices is the st of industry's raw materials d fuels. These have now been lling for several months. In ovember, they fell by a furer 1 per cent, helped by the preciation of sterling on the reign exchange markets.

In addition a fall in the price crude oil has helped, together with a general decline in her commodities on the world arkets. The result is that the ficial index of raw material d fuel prices stands about ½ ercentage point below that of ovember 1976.

This means that the only real essure on industry's costs is ming from higher wages. hese have also been restrained nd, as a result the increase in tail prices is bound to connue to decelerate in the first alf of next year almost regardss of what happens to wages d other costs from now.



However, many independent forecasters, who take a gloomy view of the Government's ability to achieve its target of a 10 per cent growth in earnings during the 1977-78 pay round, do not expect the decline in inflation to be maintained throughout next year.

If earnings rise significantly above the 10 per cent target then price inflation will once again begin to accelerate next summer.

WHOLESALE PRICES

The following are the indices (1970 = 100) of wholesale prices of manufactured goods and the basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry released by the Department of Industry yesterday. The figures exclude purchase tax but include revenue duties.

	Output prices (home sales) (1)	Prices of materials and fuels (2)	% change at previous 6 months at annual rate in (1)	in (2)
1976				
Oct	230.0	327.7	18.3	31.0
Nov	234.6	331.8	19.3	29.2
Dec	237.2	330.2	19.5	21.5
1977				
Jan	244.9	337.8	24.1	25.1
Feb	248.2	339.5	23.4	24.7
March	250.8	347.2	22.8	22.0
April	255.4	349.7	23.3	13.9
May	259.8	348.3	22.5	10.1
June	262.4	345.2	22.4	8.3
July	265.6	344.5	17.8	4.1
Aug	268.1	338.8	16.7	−6.4
Sept r	269.2	338.1	15.2	−5.2
Oct r	271.0	333.9	12.6	−9.2
Nov p	271.9	330.3	9.5	−10.6

r revised
p provisional

The evidence is that so far many groups of workers are waiting to see what each other intend to do. This could work to the Government's advantage if, by the time they come to settle, it could demonstrate the success of its anti-inflation policies.

Settlements held up, page 18

Copper output cut urged

Jakarta, Dec 5.—General Kingsley Chinkuli, the Zambian mines minister today urged leading copper-exporting countries to cut production by 15 per cent to lift depressed copper prices.

He told a ministerial meeting of the Inter-Governmental Council of Copper-exporting Countries (CIPEC) that only an all-round production cut could raise copper prices from their lowest level in real terms in the past 20 years.

General Chinkuli, addressing the opening session of the two-day CIPEC conference, said buffer stocks would not solve the problem and might encourage surplus production by providing a ready buyer (Reuter reports).

He said Zambia was seeking an agreed cut in production and sales of about 15 per cent "and certainly not below 10 per cent.

"In addition we will also be looking for a watertight mechanism to monitor and enforce these cutbacks", he said.

CIPEC's five full members—Chile, Indonesia, Peru, Zaire and Zambia—produce about 75 per cent of world copper exports. Zambia is the world's fourth largest copper producing country.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 202.63 +0.28
The FT index: 486.3 −0.4

Rises

Anglo Am Corp	11p to 277p	Milbury	10p to 74p
Benn Bros	5p to 70p	Moss Eng	7p to 66p
J. Bibby	10p to 200p	Redfearn Nat	8p to 285p
De Beers Dfd	8p to 303p	Richards & Wall	4p to 71p
Insider	1p to 9p	Sentrust	8p to 182p
Highams	4p to 44p	Spooner Ind	5p to 53p
Lintread	2p to 33p	Toye	2p to 31p

Falls

Ass Dairies	8p to 248p	Oxley Printing	2p to 47p
BP	10p to 870p	Petaling Tin	5p to 215p
Diploma Inv	7p to 150p	Rotaprint	2p to 42p
Durapipe	4p to 117p	Selection Tst	6p to 390p
Elliott, B.	8p to 99p	Scapa Group	8p to 100p
Int Paint	3p to 60p	Vickers	6p to 181p
Ldn & O'seas Fr	5½p to 36p	Whitecroft	10p to 176p

Equities were subdued.
Gilt-edged securities held early gains.
Dollar premium: 97.25 per cent (effective rate 37.31 per cent).
Sterling gained one cent to \$1.8305. The effective exchange rate index was at 63.5.

Gold gained \$1 an ounce to \$159.625.
SDR-\$ was 1.19100 on Monday, while SDR-£ was 0.650322.
Commodities: Reuter's index was at 1495.5 (previous 1495.5).

Reports, pages 21 and 23

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.66	1.61
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25
Belgium Fr	65.75	62.75
Canada \$	2.07	2.02
Denmark Kr	11.48	11.08
Finland Mkk	7.90	7.65
France Fr	9.09	8.77
Germany Dm	4.20	3.98
Greece Dr	77.75	74.00
Hongkong \$	8.80	8.35
Italy Lr	1,625.00	1,570.00
Japan Yn	465.00	440.00
Netherlands Gld	4.52	4.30
Norway Kr	10.04	9.68
Portugal Esc	77.75	73.50
S Africa Rd	1.87	1.75
Spain Pes	157.25	151.25
Sweden Kr	9.02	8.67
Switzerland Fr	4.07	3.85
US \$	1.87	1.82
Yugoslavia Dnr	38.50	36.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business

On other pages

Stockpiling blunts edge of national stoppage

Half of American coal production likely to be cut by strike which starts today

Washington, Dec 5.—A national coalminers' strike will start in the United States tomorrow afternoon. Many mines were already closed today and negotiations between the United Mine Workers Union and employers are still engaged in a host of preliminary wrangles.

The nation's electric power companies have long expected this strike, and they are believed to have coal stocks to last through the winter.

These precautions taken by the electric utilities and by many industrial users of coal are likely to result in the strike having only a marginal effect on the economy in the near future.

The strike may last as long as three months, although the 150,000 miners involved will be under great pressure to return to work, with the union unable to provide payments to them and its health and retirement fund on the verge of bankruptcy.

Yet the strike will probably affect no more than half of the nation's coal production. West coast miners have agreed a new contract and many mines not employing UMW members will be unaffected. But almost all the mines on the eastern side of America will be closed.

The UMW has not yet announced its pay demands, but it is likely to seek average increases of at least 40 per cent over the three-year life of the new contract.

The present contract, which expires tomorrow, raised the average hourly pay of top grade underground miners to \$7.88 and the top grade pay of surface miners to \$8.64.

But pay is not the main issue in this dispute. A critical concern is the state of the union's health and retirement fund. The union wants the employers to assume most of the responsibility while providing much more cash.

About 821,000 people are covered by the fund, but so parlous are its finances that all health benefit payments are due to be cut tomorrow and all retirement benefits are due to cease in January.

Another vital issue centres on the right of UMW branches to call strikes over local mine disputes. The present arbitration system, which the employers are determined to maintain, is said by the union to have proved ineffective, and this issue could be the hardest to resolve in the negotiations.

The miners are said to be in an angry mood. They assert that the employers have displayed a callous disregard to the dangers of mining where some 2,000 people have lost their lives in the past 10 years.

Moreover, they believe they should be given a much higher income for working in this dangerous industry which is increasingly being viewed as being of paramount importance to the nation's efforts to become more energy self-sufficient.

The union points out that the income per miner per ton of coal sold has declined over recent years and that it is now time for this trend to be reversed.

It asserts that a coal miner received 49.3 cents of each sales dollar in the industry in 1969, but that today the miner receives only 35.8 cents of each sales dollar.

Frank Vogl

Triumph output worth £33m lost in manning and work levels dispute

By R. W. Shakespeare

A strike by Triumph car workers at British Leyland's Merseyside plant entered its fifth week yesterday after weekend talks between senior management, national union officials, and shop stewards had failed to break the deadlock in a dispute over manning arrangements and production levels.

Labour troubles at the Speke, Liverpool, plant and consequent effects on output at the Triumph plant at Canley, Coventry, have cost Leyland lost production in cars worth about £33m over the past 10 weeks, and for the past three weeks all output of both the TR7 and Dolomite models has been at a standstill.

At the Merseyside plant 2,000 workers are on strike and another 1,500 laid off, while at Canley, which relies on supplies of car bodies from Liverpool, another 2,000 men are laid off from the Dolomite assembly lines.

The TR7, normally one of Leyland's top selling export models, has been the main victim of the latest shopfloor unrest. Output of about 10,000 cars with a showroom value of around £3,000 each has been lost over the past 10 weeks.

The trouble centres on management plans based on studies by industrial engineers to introduce new manning scales and work levels. Shop stewards claim that the company has broken a local agreement by taking a unilateral decision to implement these new arrangements.

However, the company maintains that the decision to go ahead with the plans was taken only after national negotiating procedures had been followed when it became clear that no progress towards agreement could be made at plant level.

Four weeks ago the 2,000 workers on the TR7 assembly operations walked out, and this led to the progressive lay-off of 1,500 other workers in the body pressing departments.

Last night a Leyland spokesman said: "The Dolomite assembly has had to be stopped for the past three weeks because, although we could make the bodies at Liverpool, we would not be able to get them out of the factory because transport drivers and maintenance men are on strike.

"The latest talks between union officials, management and shop stewards have left us in precisely the same deadlock situation."

BP to spend £32m on energy conservation

By Edward Townsend

British Petroleum is planning to spend £32m over the next four years on energy conservation at the group's oil refineries which, it was predicted last night, could result in annual savings to the company of nearly £33m.

Sir David Steel, chairman of BP, speaking in London to members of the Insurance Institute, said that in addition, BP chemicals was planning to spend £25m on 40 projects aimed at producing further substantial savings.

BP had saved about 7 per cent of its energy expenditure on manufacturing last year compared with 1973, and had set itself a target of a 15 per cent saving by 1980.

Sir David, who described energy conservation as "insurance for the future", said that conservation must mean more than "Save It" campaigns or merely good housekeeping.

"The Department of Energy's renewed campaign to promote energy saving in the United Kingdom marks a growing national awareness that conservation and more efficient use of energy resources is an urgent priority.

Sir David Steel: "Insurance for the future."

Sir David said he did not believe the United Kingdom's resources of oil, coal and gas would keep the country self-sufficient much beyond 1990, unless we used energy more efficiently and brought in new sources, including nuclear power and what we could economically harness from the sun, wind and waves.

China may order more from UK

By Our Commercial Editor

New orders from China for British industry were forecast yesterday by Mr Li Chiang, Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, as he and his trade delegation wound up a week of talks in the United Kingdom and left for a French tour.

Mr Li particularly mentioned the Harrier jump-jet military aircraft: "It is a good aircraft"—in which the Chinese have previously expressed buying interest.

The Chinese are also still interested in Concorde, on which at one time they had buying options for three.

"We will observe Concorde for a few more years and decide on the result of its performance on the scheduled routes", Mr Li said.

He said he had sent briefings on what technology and equipment his country would need from Britain in the future; the priorities being basic industry, energy, electrical power and metallurgy.

Discussions on detailed buying would come later, he added.

American tax cuts of $115,000m forecast

Washington, Dec 5.—The United States will have to hand out tax cuts of up to $115,000m (about £62.152m) a year to sustain the economic recovery and lower unemployment over the next five years, the Congressional Budget Office said today.

The report gave indirect, but strong support, to President Carter's expected call for substantial tax cuts next year.

The independent Congressional agency said in a five-year projection that tax cuts or large Federal spending programmes would be needed to offset expected drags on the economy.

It said that budget income will rise faster than outlays, taking money out of the economy and thus impeding achievement of national economic goals, which include a growth of the real gross national product at about a 4.8 per cent rate, and a gradual reduction of unemployment from 6.9 per cent now, to 4.5 per cent.

By the 1983 financial year, the agency said, a tax cut of $115,000m a year would be needed to offset what it called the expected "fiscal drag".

Further fall in amount of new hire purchase finance during October

By David Blake

The amount of new credit extended by finance houses and retailers fell in October for the second successive month and at £386m was down £16m from the September figure. There was also a drop in the level of retailers' credit sales, with all kinds of stores seeing a slowdown in business.

To some extent, the latest drop reflects a natural fall back from the sharp increase recorded in August, when the amount of new credit extended rose to £417m, an increase of more than £50m.

Although the figures are supposed to be seasonally adjusted, most of the increase was accounted for by the sharp rise in finance house lending to cover purchase of cars, sales of which traditionally rise in August.

The more recent figures give a truer indication of the level of demand within the economy, where retail sales picked up slightly in the summer but have since given a mediocre performance.

In the three months to the end of October, finance houses extended £557m of credit (up 12 per cent on the previous three months) while retailers extended £648m (up 13 per cent).

Durable goods stores have had slack demand, with an increase of only 5 per cent in their credit sales in the three months to October, while for department stores the figure is 17 per cent and for other retailers 15 per cent.

Retail sales figures for October have been revised downwards slightly from their first provisional assessment, with the index standing at 105.4 instead of the 106 originally assessed.

RETAIL SALES

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new instalment credit released by the Department of Industry.

	Sales by volume 1970=100	Percentage change latest 3 months on previous 3 months at annual rate	New credit extd £m
1976			
Oct	108.1	+ 3.8	310
Nov	109.2	+ 1.5	332
Dec	108.3	− 1.5	331
1977			
Jan	106.7	− 2.1	324
Feb	105.7	− 6.6	342
March	103.1	−11.8	351
April	103.4	−14.0	349
May	104.4	−12.7	358
June	103.8	− 4.1	350
July	107.0	+ 4.3	363
Aug	107.2	+10.9	417
Sept	106.2	+11.8	402
Oct	105.4	+ 5.0	386

Pay claims wait for settlement by key sectors

Settlements totalling 548, covering almost 1.5m employees and representing 6 per cent of the working population, had been received by the Confederation of British Industry's data bank, at the close of the 18th week since the end of Phase Two.

Of these 84 per cent had been reached at, or around, 10 per cent. About three out of five had been at 10 per cent, and another 22 per cent had been below that figure. Most of the rest had been made at less than 15 per cent.

It said that claims, which continued to be very high, covered almost 23 per cent of the working population.

The influence of Stage Two was continuing to decline.

Evidence suggested that many bargaining groups were holding back until certain key sectors had negotiated, said the CBI last night.

"As far as it is possible to tell only about 40 per cent of those who should have settled by this time in the bargaining year, have done so," it said.

EEC threat to world multifibre arrangement

Geneva, Dec 5.—The European Community still insists it will withdraw from the International Multifibre Arrangement (IMA) regulating world textile trade unless it is changed to allow certain import restrictions, Mr Tran Van Thinh, EEC negotiator, said here today.

Mr Tran spoke after textile importing and exporting states had resumed meetings trying to decide on whether and how to extend the treaty, which runs out at the end of this year.

He said he was asked if the EEC's original position with respect to the treaty had changed after its negotiations with the principal textile exporting countries.

"I told them that there has been no change in our position and that our final position will be determined by the Community's ministerial meeting on December 19 and 20, when the Nine foreign ministers gather in Brussels", he added.

The major issue before the 50-nation conference is whether export restraint arrangements worked out over the past seven weeks between the Community and the exporters can be incorporated into the international agreement.

The Community has insisted on export restraint pacts on the grounds that the textile industries of its member nations were being seriously damaged by an increasing flood of imports, mainly from Hongkong, South Korea and other Asian developing nations.

An average annual increase of 6 per cent of developing countries' exports to the advanced consumer nations was provided for in the 1973 treaty. The Community says it has borne the major share of this since the United States had already concluded restraint treaties with its own principal suppliers before 1973.

Developing countries would favour a simple extension without any change of the IMA as it has helped them to develop their first large-scale export capability for manufactured goods competitive with those produced in the industrialized world.

Global trade in textiles last year was valued at about $50,000m (about £27,778m) and of this exports accounted for by the IMA covered more than 80 per cent, or $40,000m, with Third World nations the main beneficiaries of recent export growth.

To them the fate of the treaty is a test of industrial nations' willingness to grant the poorer nations a larger share in world trade.—AP-Dow Jones.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Unsatisfactory' requirements over directors' standards

From Mr W. Goodhart

Sir, Many aspects of the White Paper, "The Conduct of Company Directors," deserve warm support. For example, the prohibition of insider dealing—proposed in 1972 by "Justice" in a report prepared by its Company Law Committee (of which I am chairman)—is most welcome, and it is to be hoped that these proposals will at least reach the statute book. The White Paper, however, contains one proposal which is at first sight innocuous but is in fact profoundly unsatisfactory.

I refer to paragraph 4 of the White Paper, which deals with the standard of skill and care required of a director. It is commonly assumed that this standard was authoritatively stated by Mr Justice Romer in 1924 in *re City Equitable Fire Insurance Co*, when he said that "a director need not exhibit in the performance of his duties a greater degree of skill than may reasonably be expected from a person of his knowledge or experience".

These words appear to mean that a director is not necessarily required to exercise the skill and care which is needed for the performance of his job. If so, the standard required of a director is much lower than that required for other jobs. A surgeon who botches his first operation or a newly-qualified HGV driver who crashes his lorry cannot plead his own inexperience as a defence to an action for damages, but a director in a comparable situation could do so.

At a time when business management is increasingly regarded as an important profession, this can only be regarded as unsatisfactory. To quote from a memorandum recently submitted to the Department of Trade by the Company Law Committee of "Justice", "it is clearly desirable that all directors, whether executive or non-executive, should be expressly made liable for negligence if they fail to exercise the degree of skill and care which is reasonably required for the proper performance of the tasks which they are called upon to carry out."

But, according to paragraph 4 of the White Paper, the Government does not propose to raise to an adequate level the standard of skill and care required of a director. It does not even intend to leave Mr Justice Romer's formulation alone, in which case it would at least be subject to review by the courts. It actually proposes to codify that formulation by writing it into a statute. This is so surprising that one seeks for some explanation. Is it being unreasonably suspicious to assume that what is behind this proposal is the Government's view of the capabilities of employee-directors? If so, one must conclude that a Government which is committed to the eventual introduction of employee-directors is not satisfied that there will be enough people available who have the knowledge and experience required to do the job.

"Justice" is a non-party organization which has not expressed and does not intend to express any views on the merits of the Bullock Committee proposals or any other proposals for the introduction of employee-directors, and I must make it clear that I am not writing on behalf of "Justice". It would be regrettable, however, if the Government were to allow fears of possible implications for the appointment of employee-directors to induce it to enshrine in a statutory code the present unsatisfactory law on directors' duties of care and skill.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM GOODHART,
3 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn,
London WC2.
November 30.

From Mr R. Wood

Sir, The present discussion regarding company reform in general and insider dealing in particular is in danger of getting out of hand. The following factors need to be emphasized:

First, the assumption that so-called insider dealing results in the amassing of vast profits is naive and unrealistic. In practice, for every profit that is made in this way there is a corresponding loss on information that proves to be incorrect, while in many cases favourable announcements are often anticipated and, sometimes, are more than fully anticipated so that on the awaited announcement share prices actually fall.

Secondly, in so far as the element of social and economic abuse is concerned, any such transgressions in this respect consist of isolated individual cases in which, as explained above, as often as not, losses and not gains eventuate. This compares with the consistent abuse of monopoly power organized on a massive scale by trade unions of which the latest example is the overtime ban by the Tyneside shipworkers.

Both the Wilson Labour government and the Heath Tory government, in response to well-defined public opinion, endeavoured to make the anti-social activities of the trade unions subject to the law, but both governments failed to achieve their object which is a reflection not of the validity of the trade union case but of the extent of the abuse of power exercised by this institution.

Thirdly, it is therefore entirely unacceptable that the main pressure for making insider dealing a criminal offence should come from left-wing trade union sources who represent the very institution most in need of reform and legal restraint.

On the other hand, it would be paradoxical if the activities of people such as investment analysts, who are the watchdogs for both institutional and private investors, should be threatened by an ill-conceived law in their endeavours to assess the merits of particular companies.

It must be emphasized that such people are highly trained and skilled professionals who visit companies, not with the intention of gaining privileged information, but in order to apply their experienced judgment and expertise to information regarding trading activities which can in no way be described as privileged. It would be a retrograde step if people such as this were in the future to have their legitimate activities subject to such constraints.

Yours truly,
RUSSELL WOOD,
Kennet House,
Kennet Wharf Lane,
Upper Thames Street,
London, EC4V 3AJ.
November 29.

Dangers faced by manufacturers in product liability proposals

From the President of the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association

Sir, Some of your readers will know of the onerous product liability laws operating in the United States, and will have seen the massive damages that courts sometimes award in respect of them. No company can afford the risk of selling there any more without taking adequate product liability insurance cover: the premiums for the United States are already 10 times as high as those for the United Kingdom.

The problem is enhanced through the ease with which actions may be brought, largely as a result of the acceptance of "contingency fees" for lawyers, and of "class action" suits for litigants, neither of which are yet permitted in Britain. (A Royal Commission is currently considering the contingency fee system, however, so it may be adopted here in personal injury actions.)

I should like to draw attention to the dangers that we now face following a reference under Section 3 (1) (e) of the *Law Commissions Act*, 1965, and the subsequent publication of a report *Liability for defective products* produced by the English and Scottish Law Commissions.

The most worrying proposal in this report is, that manufacturers of products which fail in service shall be held liable for resultant death or injury even though they may not be negligent in any way—in other words, a no fault liability law is proposed. The commissions' reason for this incredible proposal, *inter alia*, in that they believe the risk of defective products should be borne by those who can best insure against it.

The commissions go on to say, however, that they have been unable to make a proper assessment of whether the extra insurance cover would ever be available! They also propose that the new laws should not put such heavy liabilities on our producers as to place them at any competitive disadvantage in the international market, or to inhibit technical innovation or research, or to cause reputable manufacturers to cease production altogether. But a no-fault liability law will do just this, especially if the Scottish Law Commissions' recommendation, that liability shall apply indefinitely, is also adopted.

If the no-fault principle is to be applied in Britain, then surely it is preferable to set up a guarantee fund as proposed in Article 11 of the Strasbourg Convention, rather than penalize individual manufacturers with even greater insurance burdens. It appears to me that there is little wrong with the present system where aggrieved parties can sue manufacturers in contract or at common law, or both, where death or injury result from a product defect. Manufacturers are in danger of having horrendous liability imposed upon them, in cases where they have no true responsibility and over which they will have no control whatever.

The changes proposed should be resisted actively, and I urge all manufacturers and insurers to make their views known to the Minister for Prices and Consumer Protection well before the Council of Ministers of the EEC decides the matter in 1978.

The Minister for Prices and Consumer Protection, Mr John Fraser, is reported in *Trade and Industry*, November 4, as saying: "If the government accepted the Law Commission's recommendations on product liability it would be one of the greatest civil rights victories for consumers ever won. To recover damages all an injured person will have to do is to show that the injury was due to a defect in a product and that the defendant produced it or imported it."

I believe that industry and insurers in all EEC countries should make strong representation to their governments to ensure that conjointly they obtain a practical directive that all can follow at one and the same time placing no one country at a competitive disadvantage in relation to the others.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FATHARLY,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Allied Polymer Group Limited,
Beacon House,
Pyrford Road,
West Byfleet,
Surrey
November 28.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

What is the NEB's philosophy?

Its castigators have already shown horror at the National Enterprise Board's successful outbidding of Trafalgar House to get control of Fairey's British assets. It is the NEB's first full-blown bid against a rival bidder from the private sector, and the vision of the NEB mobilizing its millions of taxpayers' money to take out a business already presented with an alternative solution is one calculated to stimulate outrage in the private sector.

In fact this deal is not such a novelty. The NEB has already been involved in a bid battle with Guinness over White Child & Beney, although admittedly it did not make a full counter offer; it has always been its philosophy to invest in profitable concerns as well as the lame ducks dropped in its lap by the Government. The exit price earnings ratio of just under 9 is by no means profligate and the margin by which it has

NEB's other investments

Companies	% held	cost £'000
Data Recording	57.4	3,137
Ferranti	50.0	
	100.0*	
Herbert	100.0	26,196
Sinclair Radionics	73.3	650
	100.0*	1,200
British Tanners Products	50.0	500
Cambridge Instruments	46.3	1,770
	100.0*	550
Computer Analysts and Programmers	29.9	549
ICL	24.4	12,083
Pitcraft	20.4	87
	100.0†	400
Systime	26.0	504
Twinlock	33.3	997
Brown Boveri Kent	17.6	1,880
Francis Shaw	100.0	546

† Preference shares.
* Non-voting.
Main investments, excluding British Leyland and Rolls-Royce.

outbid Trafalgar is not excessive; and pre-tax profits of £4.8m from companies acquired for £20.5m comply with the 15-20 per cent return on capital criterion just outlined for the NEB by Mr Varley, the Industry Secretary.

But the bid does raise again the more fundamental question of whether the NEB has a cogent investment philosophy or whether its spending is wholly piecemeal. It is not clear what "industrial logic" lies behind this latest addition to the NEB's portfolio, a point which is bound to lend weight to those who argue that its main objective at the moment is simply to commit its money as quickly as it can so that its unscrambling by an unsympathetic Conservative government at some future date is made that much more difficult.

The other, more practical, question is whether it is possible for any investing institution to make significant new equity investments successfully at the pace of the NEB. So far it seems to be going well (excepting, of course, its lame ducks) but such has been the speed of investment that there are bound to be doubts about how comprehensively the NEB can monitor its existing commitments, let alone get involved in new ones.

Samuel Osborn

Why Weir went away

It is easy to see from Samuel Osborn's full year results why the group failed to reach agreement on terms for a take-over from the Weir Group. Osborn was expected to make about £2.4m profit, but the actual instead of the published outturn is £3.4m, and Weir's calculations were almost certainly based on the lower figure.

Nearly all the Osborn gain has come from the steel activities, which, by rights, and in comparison with every other steel company, should have been having to pull all the stops out even to stand still. In the event trading profits have risen from £273,000 to £1.53m, so that the profits in the second-half alone were more than £1m.

The explanation apparently is that the Ecclesfield plant, which the group moved into some five years ago, has at last paid off in terms of productivity, with higher volume and lower unit costs bringing big benefits.

Thus a company which looked hard pressed to survive as an independent unit being highly dependent on South Africa and up against increasingly stiff competition from much larger companies in Europe, can—on these figures—both survive and grow.

This poses a problem for Johnson & Firth Brown whose 20 per cent holding must be burning a hole in its pocket having seen one bid, which would have given a handsome profit, pass out of the window. But Osborn shareholders may still need to be convinced that this level of profits is sustainable; the improvement, coming in such a short time, is quite remarkable. At 75p up 2p, the shares yield only 5.2 per cent, which even on this performance, still provides scope for speculative possibilities.

● *The Bank of England may have it within its power, for a short period at least, to influence domestic interest rates, but the Eurosterling market, a highly sensitive indicator of what foreigners holding sterling think of developments in the United Kingdom, is another matter. During the past few days the market has been showing in no uncertain fashion how dubious it is about the Bank's interest rate tactics, and yesterday Fisons was obliged to raise the coupon on its sterling Eurobond issue from 10 to 10¼ per cent and it looked very much as though Courtaulds might have to do something similar with its 9¾ per cent issue.*

It is an inauspicious start for a market that has been full of promise during the past few weeks for both issuers and investors. Selling was developing last Wednesday and by Friday the market was in full retreat. The Finance for Industry issue, priced on Friday, was particularly hard hit, reaching 96¾ last night compared to an issue of 99½ where it yields 10¼ per cent.

The first point to make is that investors evidently believe that, in spite of the Bank's restraining action, interest rates here are headed upwards. The second, and potentially more important point is that the rapidity of the setback and the evident willingness of investors to get out at the first sign of trouble, raises real question marks over the underlying strength of investment demand for sterling Eurobond issues.

Harrisons & Crosfield

A challenge in plantations

Having already beaten off one attack this year on part of its empire—then it was Golden Hope which was under attack—Harrisons & Crosfield is now facing another threat. This time it is by way of a bid for Malayalam Plantations from McLeod Russel.

McLeod, which already owns or has options on 29.99 per cent of Malayalam, is bidding 23p a share, valuing the entire company at £6.25m. With H & C and associates controlling 23.64 per cent and Malayalam (whose chairman, Mr Frederick Harper, is on the H & C board) rejecting the bid, the City scented an eventually increased offer and the shares rose 2p to 24½p.

Malayalam's situation is complicated as it prepares for Indianization since it is a hybrid company spanning both tea and rubber plantations.

In the absence of a defence document, Malayalam shareholders are going to have a difficult task of trying to assess the bid since the remittance of dividends from India is irregular in both size and timing, while the valuation of assets is not easy.

Malayalam is important to H & C since it controls some 2.8 per cent of Harrisons' Malaysian Estates. Two other companies held on similar minority holdings—London and Sumatra and Harcros—bring the holding up to around 10 per cent. If all three companies were taken out of the H & C camp it would make an awkward dent in H & C's control of HME which has still yet to reach full agreement with the Malaysian authorities on changing domicile.

During four months of abortive talks that followed McLeod's acquisition of the Malayalam stake, the possibility of selling the HME stake back to H & C was raised although McLeod appears to have been holding out for a higher value than the then stock market value. However, that did not get very far since H & C was unwilling to see Malayalam out of its grasp in the first place.

The bid does appear to have exposed a damaging gap in the minority cross holdings in the H & C empire.

Eric Wigham

Blurred vision on union recognition

Sections of the Employment Protection Act on which the TUC probably placed greatest store, those dealing with trade union claims for recognition, have resulted in such a tangle of law suits and so much fruitless argument between the Confederation of British Industry and union leaders that there is talk about the desirability of repealing them altogether, particularly among those responsible for implementing their provisions.

The TUC is concerned because in some respects the clauses threaten to override its own procedure for settling disputes between unions, the so-called Bridlington procedure. The CBI complains that the way the Act is being interpreted by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) is increasing trade union fragmentation and has resulted in loss of confidence among employers in the impartiality of the service. It is pressing for agreed criteria under which claims should be decided.

Both the TUC and the CBI have nominees on the council which runs Acas and its last few meetings have been devoted largely to arguments about recognition cases. Next week the council will meet again for a full discussion of the CBI demand for fixed criteria, though with little prospect of agreement. Meanwhile, at least one private member's Bill to amend the clauses will soon be presented to Parliament by a left-wing Labour member.

The seventh writ this year challenging the legality of recognition claim handling was served at the Acas office in Westminster last Friday. The Law Lords are meanwhile expected to give their verdict at last on the most publicized case, arising out of the Grunwick dispute, before Christmas.

Acas is obliged under the Act, if a claim for recognition for the purpose of collective bargaining is referred to it and cannot be settled by conciliation, to consult all the parties involved and to find out the opinions of the workers affected before making a report. The Grunwick case arose because Acas could not, and therefore did not, consult all the workers...

The latest writ, issued by a non-TUC union, the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE), questions a decision by Acas not to recommend recognition by an engineering company, although there was strong support for it among the workers. Of the other five writs one affecting the Legal and General Assurance Society was followed by court action which Acas lost. The other actions are still pending.

Besides these there was a threat of legal action by the Engineers and Managers Association (EMA) to force Acas to deal with a recognition claim for certain classes of engineers at a GEC plant at Whetstone. A TUC disputes committee ruled last March that the EMA contravened a Bridlington principle by organizing at Whetstone, where the technical and supervisory section (Tass) of the engineers union already had some members.

... a tangle of law suits and so much fruitless argument that there is talk about the desirability of repealing those sections of the Act altogether

Its finding was not only that EMA should stop recruiting and advise its Whetstone members to join Tass, but also that it should not proceed with any claim for recognition for the staff concerned.

The EMA refused to accept this and applied to the courts for an injunction to stop the TUC from taking disciplinary action against it. Section 118 of the Employment Protection Act declares void any provision in an agreement which precludes any person from making a reference to Acas.

The TUC gave an undertaking not to take disciplinary action on these grounds and the EMA is now hoping that the Acas council will decide to deal with its case at its meeting next week, which could make further legal action unnecessary.

Claims by EMA for recognition in the nationalized shipbuilding and aeronautical industries have still to come to a head.

The TUC is disturbed by the discovery that the Bridlington principles can be overruled by the Act. The November meeting of its employment policy and organization committee discussed a paper which supported Acas recognition procedures and drew attention to Acas successes, but expressed concern at the growing use of the law. It argued strongly against attempts by the CBI to make a recommendation by the service conditional upon a union securing majority support among the workers concerned.

The TUC general council was already disturbed by the temporary suspension from membership of the Transport and General Workers Union because some of its draymen members had not implemented a disputes committee finding that beer should be delivered to the Fox and Goose hotel in the Midlands.

The handling of inter-union disputes will be among the first questions to be taken up by Mr Kenneth Graham, one of the two newly appointed assistant general secretaries. It was widely supposed that the creation of the new offices was intended to widen the field from which a successor to Mr Len Murray as general secretary might eventually be drawn, but it represents a more basic development in the TUC structure.

Mr Murray has clearly felt that the implications of the vast new responsibilities which the TUC has undertaken in the past few years are more than he has time to handle.

Mr Kenneth Graham, one of the TUC's newly appointed assistant general secretaries, who will be looking into the TUC's procedure for settling inter-union recognition disputes.

So, relieved of detailed departmental work, Mr David Lea will be free to give his mind to such matters as the social contract and the nation's economic strategy and Mr Graham to the new issues which have arisen in inter-union relations, partly as a result of the Government's labour legislation.

He has been asked to consider how the Bridlington principles can be made to stick in spite of the law, now that inter-union differences are much less frequently concerned than in the past with demarcation and much more with recruitment and recognition, particularly of white collar workers.

He will lay a lot of emphasis on settlements by conciliation rather than references to disputes committees and may on occasion take the initiative in bringing unions together where they have a history of disagreement.

The banks and commerce and white collar organizations in the engineering industry are obviously fields which require his attention. His new status will not doubt help him in his meetings with union leaders.

The CBI wants changes in sections 11 to 16 of the Employment Protection Act, which deal with recognition and the TUC may well decide that changes are needed either in the Act or in the Bridlington principles, or both. But neither is at present talking about abolishing those sections. It is the officials of Acas who wonder how long they can go on working in the middle of a legal minefield.

They are charged under the Act to promote the improvement of industrial relations and to encourage the extension of collective bargaining, but there are cases where the two objectives are mutually exclusive. When they refused to recommend the recognition of URAPE, although the staff concerned wanted it, it was because they thought it would worsen industrial relations in the engineering industry.

On the other hand they have sometimes recommended recognition for small groups of workers where the known support has seemed to employers to have been insufficient.

If eventually it is decided that sections 11 to 16 in their present form are doing more harm than good, the TUC will certainly demand that something be put in their place. It never intended them to be used to deal with inter-union disputes and that was why employers are not empowered to make use of them—another CBI grievance. But the TUC wants a legal means for unions to secure recognition where it is denied them.

The shadow of Sindona over Banco di Roma

The troubles at Banco di Roma are not a typical banking crisis, but represent the latest chapter in the still unfinished Sindona saga, Italy's biggest politico-finacial scandal since the war. There has been no sudden loss of confidence, no run on deposits, no fears of misappropriation of customers' funds.

In fact, the investigating magistrate is looking into allegations that the management did too well for clients—or important ones at least—by allowing those who had allegedly exported funds to be reimbursed on the eve of the Sindona collapse.

What led to the suspension of the two joint managing directors, Signor Mario Barone and Signor Giovanni Guidi, was their failure to produce to the Milan magistrate a list of more than 500 accounts with another Sindona bank, the former Finabank of Geneva. These accounts, it is maintained, belonged to customers of the Sindona banks in Milan, whose lire had been sent illegally to Finabank for conversion into foreign currency, then returned to Italy.

Since these now figured as foreign funds, the allegation goes, most were reimbursed shortly before the crash.

All this happened in late summer 1974. Banco di Roma, Italy's fourth biggest bank and a member of the vast parastatal Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), had by then taken control of Signor Michele Sindona's main Italian banking and property interests.

When public confidence in the United States was already faltering in Signor Sindona's Franklin Bank, Banco di Roma decided to support him for reasons which are not entirely clear, but which owe much to Professor Ferdinando Ventriglia, then deputy chairman.

Banco di Roma advanced Signor Sindona $100m and 63,500m lire (about £42m) against control of his two Milan banks Banca Privata Finanziaria and Banca Unione (merged in those last weeks before liquidation into Banca Privata Italiana) and ownership of his almost 40 per cent controlling shareholding in the international property company Società Generale Immobiliare.

For the magistrate, the list has been a will of the wisp. Everyone knows about it, but no one has had it on his desk.

The obvious difficulties in the search have encouraged speculation that it may contain political dynamite. An extreme left-wing newspaper published names claimed to be on it, including several politicians, a businesswoman, a magistrate and a medical specialist.

The only hard evidence came from an admission in a press interview by Signor Mauro Leone, son of President Giovanni Leone, that the presidential family had had four personal bank accounts with the Rome branch of Banca Privata Finanziaria.

The Quirinal Palace has, however, denied any involvement of the President in improper activities.

Whether the list is ever run to earth, the affair has proved damaging for Banco di Roma, which faces the task of restoring its image. It has been embarrassing for top executives to have their passports withdrawn and be unable to travel abroad on the bank's business.

Signor Barone also had the unwelcome experience of spending 24 hours in jail for alleged reticence before the magistrate.

The bank's immediate reaction was to extend the powers of the chairman, Signor Leopoldo Medugno, to strengthen the executive committee and—only two days before it had issued a denial of any irregularities—to set up an internal inquiry.

Will these steps be enough? Even if they stop the immediate rot, the trouble is that the malaise is not limited to one bank but is widespread throughout public sector economic and financial structures.

An encouraging sign, at least, is that efforts are being made to end the practice of treating top banking posts as something for backstage party political bargaining and that parliament will in future first have to be consulted about them.

Nor has the Banco di Roma affair improved the image of IRI. Besides the financial difficulties of some of its leading member companies it has had its share of scandals, ranging from the flight abroad of Signor Camillo Crociani, former head of the Finmeccanica engineering sector, to charges pending against top executives of the shipping sector

What further chapters in the Sindona story have yet to come out? Banco di Roma still has a residual share in Società Generale Immobiliare, whose survival remains in doubt.

The company, which by the irony of coincidence built the Watergate complex in Washington, has steadily accumulated losses and debts to a preoccupying level. Banco di Roma first ceded most of its holding to a group of Roman building contractors, but the problem was too big for them.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to negotiate the entry of the cooperative movement and then of Texan interests associated with Mr John Connally, the United States politician and financier.

The latest rescue reports are linked with the name of Signor Carlo Pesenti, the Bergamo banker and cement industrialist, but their outcome is uncertain.

Then there is the question of whether Italian justice will ever bring Signor Sindona to trial, along with his former right hand man (with whom he has fallen out), Signor Carlo Bordoni, now lying in a Venezuelan jail. Signor Sindona lives in an hotel in New York, where he is fighting a two-year-old Italian request that he should be extradited on charges of fraudulent bankruptcy, arguing that he is the victim of political persecution.

John Earle

Business Diary: Novel villainy • Scrooge in Brussels?

Ross Davies, Business Diary's editor, went to yesterday's Whitbread Literary Awards in London:

It's ironic that Edward Freeman, the hero of Beryl Bainbridge's much-acclaimed novel, *Injury Time*, should be an accountant.

Miss Bainbridge, who yesterday won the £1,500 Whitbread prize for fiction, may not know for some time whether she can keep the money—as can a pools winner—or whether Sir William Pile, chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, will take much of it from her.

Sir William—and I should have thought a former under-secretary at the Department of Education and Science would have known better—is having little success in stopping accountants from getting away with hundreds of millions of pounds through artificial tax avoidance schemes for companies and for rich individuals. The revenue men are, however, seeking to recoup a little self-esteem, if far less cash, by putting in the boot for some genuinely productive people—to wit, authors.

As my brother diarist Anthony Holden, Atticus of *The Sunday Times*, recently pointed out, the Inland Revenue are making a test case of a former Whitbread winner, Andrew Boyle. They want a cut of his 1974 prize for *Poor, Dear Brendan*, appropriately enough the biography of the founder of the *Financial Times*, Brendan Bracken.

Miss Bainbridge received her cheque in London yesterday, as did Shelagh Macdonald for her children's book *No End to Yesterday* and Juliet Nicolson on behalf of her father, Nigel, for his biography, *Mary Curzon*.

The cheques were presented by the chairman of Whitbread, Alex Bennett, who declared that he had read none of the books, but his wife had.

I asked Miss Bainbridge why she had made her hero an accountant, a member of a profession not markedly attractive to practitioners of fiction. "To disguise who I was writing about", she said. "I never write fiction, you see."

■ The EEC Commission, ever eager to prove that the common agricultural policy is a flexible and accommodating instrument, has tried to turn complaints about the butter "mountain" on their heads.

It has replied to those who demand that surpluses should be sold cheaply to consumers inside the EEC, instead of to outsiders like the Russians, by subsidizing a drastic price cut. It has answered those who condemn its plan to make margarine as dear as butter by making butter as cheap as margarine.

The result is "Christmas butter", a chunk of 72,000 tonnes from the Community's ever-enlarging surplus, which shoppers all over Europe—with one important exception—can buy until the middle of January. A regulation which says that the words "Christmas butter" must be stamped on every packet is now in operation and causing alarm throughout the butter trade.

Traders fear that the presence of butter carrying a subsidy worth 18p a pound on sale next to normal shop supplies will merely disrupt the Christmas market and encourage hoarding by families with freezers. The move will cost the Community budget 52 million units of account, or more than £30m.

The only snag is that Britain is left out. The Community is already spending 59 million units on a scheme which leads to a subsidy worth 8p a pound on all EEC-produced butter sold here.

■ Problems surrounding Britain's £115m shipbuilding contract with Poland, ranging from labour unrest to complaints about subsidizing "communist orders" and calls for a Parliamentary inquiry, are not, apparently, reaching the ears of the Poles themselves.

According to Andrei Konopacki, press counsellor at the Polish embassy in London, the order is "one of a series" and has not aroused much interest or emotion in Warsaw.

The widespread reporting of difficulties such as the overtime ban at Swan Hunter was, he said, "a typically British syndrome." It had become a suspense story true to the British character but nobody was making a fuss about it in Poland.

Reports that Poland was demanding as a condition of the contract assurances about labour relations were not true. "It is a contract with specific terms of delivery but the whole issue has been overblown. The internal relations between British Shipbuilders and the unions are not our affair."

Business Diary also spoke to W. Kornacki, of Polish radio and television in London, who confirmed that he had reported the communique issued after the official signing of the contract in London. He told his Polish audience that the orders would help to solve some of the unemployment problems in Britain and that both sides would reap some benefits.

But he had not reported any of the subsequent events because nobody in Poland would be interested

Photograph: John Manning

Unilever's Sir David Orr yesterday: who needs exchange controls?

■ There is obviously no chance of the Hambro Businessman of the Year award ever going embarrassingly to a high-flying newcomer whose wings might melt while the handsome silver trophy still stands freshly on the sideboard.

The eighth winner of this very establishment accolade is Sir David Orr, chairman of Unilever Ltd and deputy chairman of Unilever NV, who is one of the three-man Special Committee which runs the Anglo-Dutch multinational.

Sir David's career has been all solid achievement since at 26, with a first-class arts degree from Trinity College, Dublin, and a law degree in his pocket, he joined Unilever as a management trainee.

Sir David had flown in from the United States to collect the award in London yesterday. Talks are apparently still going on into Unilever's possible takeover there of National Starch and Chemical. "We may have something more to say soon", Sir David said.

His thank-you speech at the Savoy seemed apt enough in the circumstances. He said that with the chance offered by North Sea oil, Britain no longer needed exchange controls. Overseas investment must be made free again, because contrary to what the trade unions particularly were afraid of, investment abroad did not mean less investment at home.

He supported the familiar argument that overseas investment could create jobs at home by pointing out that this year Unilever was exporting some £400m worth of goods from the United Kingdom—more than half of it the result of investment abroad.

He added: "We have never in Unilever turned down an investment in the United Kingdom because we wanted the money to invest somewhere else."

One by-product of the hard times on which brokers and jobbers have fallen in recent years has been a "serious" depletion of the ranks of the Stock Exchange male voice choir. An appeal was circulated to exchange members yesterday by Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman, who is president of the choir. The choir will be able to present the annual Christmas concert at Carpenters' Hall tomorrow night, but recruits are needed now. He who would valiant be, let him come hither. Or is this an argument for bringing in more women?

Frustrated BP issues ultimatum over Sardinian protein plant

From John Huxley
Cagliari, Sardinia, Dec 5

British Petroleum officials said today that the company is looking at alternative uses for a £30m plant built in Sardinia to produce Toprina protein.

The 100,000 tons per annum plant *should have come on* stream 18 months ago, but is still not being allowed to operate by the Italian authorities.

Mr Hector Watts, managing director of BP Proteins, said that the plant, to produce protein for animal foodstuffs from n-paraffins separated from crude oil, is now costing £10m a year to finance and maintain. "*In the interests of our share*holders we cannot go on like this much longer."

He confirmed that the company is giving serious consideration to pulling out of Sardinia if approval for production is not indicated within the next two or three months. The January 31 deadline set after fruitless meetings with the Italian authorities in the summer still stood, he said.

Mr Watts also said that BP lawyers are now investigating the possibility of taking legal action against the Italian authorities if BP is forced to liquidate.

The plant, at Sarroch, is controlled by Italproteine SpA, a 50-50 venture between BP and Anic, the petrochemical arm of ENI, the state energy company.

The prospects for alternative use or dismantling for removal to another site are limited. The company has more than its share of £40m (less about £4m if the project goes ahead) tied up at Sarroch.

"A whole new technology which could make an important contribution to the hungry world may have to be abandoned if this plant is condemned to inactivity much longer", Mr Watts said.

Already delays at Sarroch *have caused the postponement* of an agreement signed by BP last year to use its technology in a £60m plant in Venezuela. Studies have been made with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and approaches have also been received from the Soviet Union and China.

Mr Chris Green, BP Protein's commercial manager, said that *the market for protein know*how is substantial, but that countries are unlikely to buy *unseen as it is still a new tech*nology.

The project began in 1972 with the backing of the Italian government, which offered grants and favourable loan terms. The production and marketing of Toprina has been approved in Italy on the basis of a decree from the Italian ministries of health, agriculture and industry.

Building began at Sarroch in 1974 along the lines of a demonstration unit with production capacity of 4,000 tonnes per annum at Grangemouth.

In February last year, however, the health authorities suspended approval for the sale of Toprina pending further testing. Eight months later approval was given for the plant to operate at the reduced level of 40,000 tonnes per annum, although the ban on product sales continued.

Production was then again suspended, pending plant modifications which, say BP, the authorities have not specified.

The doubts raised in Italy, the company says, have been considered by various international authorities, all of which have affirmed the safety of the product, which has been included in the draft directive issued by the EEC concerning *suitable animal feedstuffs.*

Despite the importance to BP of the Sardinian venture, the company is in earnest in its stated intention to withdraw.

The patience of the officials is exhausted, Mr Watts said. The company cannot continue indefinitely to bear the burden of tangible losses in the hope of future benefits. Neither is BP *convinced that the Italian* authorities are withholding approval for the reason so far *stated.*

The stated objections, say BP, are to the product (it has been claimed for instance that paraffin residues found in pigs fed on Toprina are too high) and to the process (the authorities are worried by dust emission from the plant).

On the first count, Mr Watts points out that n-paraffins are permitted in much higher concentration in foodstuffs for human consumption. On the second, he says that the plant meets fully every known regulation, and is in any case far freer from dust than say concrete plants.

Mr Green added: "We have been through all the right procedures and have got all the necessary approvals. Then they started raising new objections."

Hitachi denies loss of interest in assembly factory on Wearside

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Hitachi, the Japanese electronics group, last night strongly denied any intention to withdraw its application to the Government to establish a colour television assembly factory at Washington new town, on Wearside, in the North-east of England.

Hitachi's plan has caused increasing controversy as fears have grown of a net loss of jobs from setting up the factory. As a result the Government has delayed a decision on the Hitachi application until talks are completed with both the domestic electronic components industry and the trade unions.

As these talks continued yesterday reports were circulating in the North-east that Mr Peter Viggers, Conservative MP for Gosport, had claimed in his constituency that Hitachi did not intend to move to Washington. Mr Viggers was reported to have made the comments while visiting the Thorn colour television factory in his constituency.

Mr Viggers said last night that he had been given to understand by a source he believed to be reliable that Hitachi did not now expect or intend to pursue its application to establish in Washington.

He had understood that it was reconsidering the whole matter and might make a subsequent application to start a factory elsewhere in Britain.

Mr Viggers: information given to him in good faith.

He had not discussed the matter directly with Hitachi but the information had been given to him in good faith, Mr Viggers added.

A Hitachi spokesman said last night: "The company has no intention of withdrawing its application to establish at factory at Washington new town."

The Department of Industry confirmed that there had been no lessening of interest by the Japanese company and that talks were continuing.

It seems unlikely that Hitachi has been trying to pressure the Government into a decision.

27,800 new dwellings completed in October

Builders completed 27,800 *houses and flats in* Great Britain during October, a slight drop from the previous *month's total, but some 2,000* better than in October, 1976. Figures released yesterday by the Department of the Environment show that starts were also down on the previous month, but the October total of 24,600 was 3,100 up on the comparable 1976 period.

Taking three month totals to reduce the effects of month to month fluctuations, and discounting normal seasonal movements, total starts in August *to October* were up 2 per cent on the previous three months, May to July, but were 8 per *cent lower than August to* October a year ago. Completions were 5 per cent up on the *previous three months* but 1 per cent lower than a year ago.

Loss-making port gains reprieve

A Scottish port which made an £80,000 loss this year has been given a reprieve for at least three years, Mr John Sutton, managing director of the Forth Ports Authority, said yesterday that the Methil Docks in Fife, rumoured to be about to close, would be kept running, although they would be operating at a loss.

He told a Press conference in Glenrothes that a petrochemical complex may be built in Mossmorran, central Fife, and the port may be needed to bring in materials and equipment by sea.

EEC production rises slightly

Brussels, Dec 5.—Industrial production in the European Community in September rose slightly over the two previous months, breaking the downward trend which began last summer, the Community statistics office said today.

The index of industrial production (base 1970) was a provisional seasonally adjusted 116.3 in September against 115.9 in July and August.

A slight rise in production of consumer goods has braked the previous falls while production of capital goods and products for further processing is still falling.—Reuter.

Post Office review by Carter Committee 'omits important issue'

Concern that the important topic of the convergence of telecommunications *with com*puting was not debated in the Carter Committee's review of the Post Office has been voiced in a joint statement by the British Computer Society and the National Computing Centre.

It is important to question the very basis of the Post Office monopoly, the two organizations say, if real progress is to be *made for the provision*, exploitation and use of appropriate data-communications services.

They argue that *the Post* Office should continue to hold a monopoly as a carrier, but that the connexion of any "conforming" equipment to the Post Office network should be allowed. Switching by either the Post Office or a user should be permitted.

The Post Office can never be aware of all the factors that may make it useful to switch and redirect traffic, the joint submission says. The existing switching monopoly inhibits the development and exploitation of socially useful technical possibilities.

The two organizations also believe that it is essential for there to be a firm commitment to a public switched digital data network by the early 1980s, and for such a network to be fully compatible at least with those in Europe and North America.

In the joint submission the BCS and the NCC point out that the "general licence for message-conveying computers" (prepared under Section 27 of the Post Office Act 1969) requires that a language or code comprehensible to the Post Office is used and that the Post Office can inspect the computer, its messages and records of messages, and can monitor any message being conveyed.

These requirements, the two organizations suggest, are not in keeping with the current climate of opinion on matters of privacy and are not easily justifiable "unless one thinks in terms of protecting the existing monopoly".

Bearing in mind both the needs of users and the proposed changes in technology over the next 20 years, the society and the centre are concerned that Post Office policy and any restructuring will need to be "carefully evolved". *These* policies will have very considerable implications for all organizations concerned with data processing.

Computer news

CAP growth continues

The mass market era for microcomputers has arrived but so far has had little impact on data-processing departments and others heavily dependent on software, according to Mr Alex d'Agapeyeff, chairman of Computer Analysts & Programmers.

New vendors, users, applications and methods have *emerged*, but their effect on established computer usage has been to question rather than to *replace existing* practices.

Mr d'Agapeyeff was introducing the CAP group's annual *results for 1976-77 (published* yesterday), which show that, including the Computer Program Products *sales*, turnover for the year rose by 94 per cent to £6.5m.

Pre-tax profit rose from £273,000 to £333,000. Turnover for 1977-78 would exceed £8m, the chairman forecast. Total staff numbers had increased from 500 in December, 1975, to 600 in December, 1976, and 700 in December, 1977.

Market reports

Despite the impact of rival *concepts* such as distributed processing and small business systems, the "mainframe" com*puter will remain* the dominant element in the Western European data-processing market, *according* to the Pactel consultancy, London.

The value of mainframe systems shipped in 1977 was 4.1 times that of computer terminals; and 1.5 times that of total software and services sales; and 1.4 times that of the combined shipments of minicomputers and small business systems.

Major United States suppliers account for an overall 84.4 per cent of the market, *on the basis* of installed base, by value, for 1977.

These figures are taken from *Computer mainframes*, the first in a series of market reports which are being published by Pactel. Nine other subjects are covered, ranging from microcomputers to business communications; all 10 reports will be updated annually.

Kenneth Owen

Indonesian oil discovery is confirmed

Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas announces that the operator (Iiapca) has successfully completed testing Pertamina—Iiapca Kartina number two in the south-east Sumatra contract area of Indonesia, it was reported in Calgary, Alberta, yesterday.

The well flowed at a sustained rate of 2,944 barrels of oil per day from a single massive sandstone within the Talang Akar formation.

Kartini number two is a confirmation test to the Kartini number one discovery well located about 1½ miles to the south. Drilling by parties holding adjoining properties is also under way.

British Franchise Association sets up code of trading ethics to aid entrants into rapidly growing market

By Patricia Tisdall

A big increase in applicants for franchises for take-away food outlets, drain clearing, car rental, printing shops and other trades has been reported by the newly-formed British Franchise Association yesterday.

According to Mr John Gooderham, vice-chairman of the Association's steering committee and director of franchising for Dyno-Rod, growing numbers of people are seeking to use their redundancy payments together with gains from higher property values to set up in business on their own.

The association, which formally launched itself last week, aims to protect newcomers from losing their savings in unscrupulous or ill-run operations.

By policing members and keeping to a standardized code of trading ethics it also hopes to prevent the Government from enacting "ill-conceived and hasty" legislation against franchisors.

Members fear that antagonism arising from the adopting of the term franchising by traders driven out by legislation against pyramid selling and similar techniques has rubbed off on legitimate traders.

Eight of the biggest franchise companies who, with a combined turnover of over £105m and 1,300 outlets claim to represent 60 to 65 per cent of the franchise industry, founded the association in a bid to clear its reputation.

The founder members: Budget Rent-A-Car (UK), Dyno-Rod, Holiday Inns (UK), Kentucky Fried Chicken (GB) the Prontaprint chain of 50 printing and copying shops, the Service-Master cleaning and restoration service, Wimpey International and the Ziebard rustproofing specialists are mostly American in origin.

Four more franchise companies, Trust Houses Forte, Pronuptia, Dayvilles and Home Tune have applied and been vetted by the association and are due to join in January, and the officers believe that a further 23 operations would be eligible for membership.

In the United States, franchise traders account for almost $240,000m (about £133,500m) worth of sales and represent around 30 per cent of all restaurant receipts.

Estimates, based on United States government statistics are that franchising has shown a growth rate of 31 per cent over the past two years.

In Britain, according to Mr David Acheson, managing director of Kentucky Fried Chicken (GB), franchising is in an embryonic stage, but this is still the second largest market for the franchisers.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Tesco now sets sights on EEC takeovers

By Ashley Druker

Increasingly higher turnover appears now to be crucial for supermarket groups since Tesco Stores (Holdings) dropped Green Shield stamps and started a regime of price cuts. The consequence, as with its High Street competitors, is that profit margins have been more-than-ever squeezed, underlined by Tesco's own decision to close more than 200 of its smaller outlets. The future, as Mr Leslie Porter, chairman, recently explained is for stores of 20,000 sq ft upwards. Less than a tenth of its 700 outlets have 20,000 sq ft.

Its latest move in actively seeking to take over one or more established stores chains in EEC countries, though none appears imminent, does not overtly however seem designed to boost turnover. The main interest for Tesco, in seeking a takeover in Europe "is to find further outlets for the group's international network of buying offices and bulk buying agreements".

The company is discussing a takeover with two store groups, one French and one German. Each operates only in its own country at present.

Talks with a number of other groups had come to nothing, he added. But in each case the talks were broken off by the other side, possibly because of sterling fluctuations against their own currencies.

Whitecroft setback but rally on way

A first-half setback at Whitecroft, the textiles engineering and property group, has ruled out a repetition of last year's record pre-tax profit of £5m. Turnover of this Manchester-based group went up from £23.8m to £26.8m, over the six months to September 30, but pre-tax profits dropped nearly 18 per cent to £1.77m. This prompted a 10p fall in the shares to 176p.

Mr John Tavare, the chairman, says that the second half should produce better results but the group will not match its performance for 1976-77. The board continues its policy of investment in areas which promise growth, and "major contributions" are expected from this source next year.

Meanwhile, on attributable profits of £1.6m against £2.5m, the gross dividend is hoisted from £3.58p to 6.6p. Earnings a-share are 16.1p against 20.1p. Commenting on the setback, Mr Tavare says that operating conditions for some textile companies which service consumer products and some industrial applications have been severe. Moreover, the building and construction companies are finding it difficult to obtain enough work at acceptable margins, and their profits have fallen.

In spite of this, the group's builders' and plumbers' merchants continue to do well, and the engineering manufacturing companies are increasing their order books and profits.

This is in line with the group's expectations at the end of last year. The order book of the engineering division had grown and higher profits were looked for. However, Mr Ernest Goold, who retired from the chair at the annual meeting in July, said that the return on capital employed in this sector was still unsatisfactory but an improvement was looked for.

The textile subsidiaries had managed a 99 per cent increase in profits over the year thanks to its greater involvement in the specialist sector. It was placing particular emphasis on exports, and these markets were becoming increasingly important to the group.

The board was budgeting for more than £2m of capital expenditure on development and expansion of companies already in the group.

WGI well on the road to recovery

The recovery in the second half last year at WGI, the civil mechanical and process engineer and maker of refractory materials, looks as though it has been carried on into the current first half. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 leapt from £261,000 to £497,000. The civil engineerin side which caused most of the problems last year has made a £430,000 turnround into a profit of £130,000. So with all the rest of the group's divisions now performing well it is expected that at least it will equal the record £1.2m

Key issue for Dawson is strength of textile cycle

By Bryan Appleyard

Dawson International, the quality textile group, increased its pretax profits by 43 per cent on sales up by 35 per cent in the six months to September 30.

Sales rose from £29.8m to £40.2m and pre-tax profits from £3.9m to £10.4m.

The board says order books are now full and second half profits should exceed the first stage, though the directors would not commit themselves on whether they would beat the £6.4m achieved in last year's second-half.

This current year is the third of the present upswing in the textile cycle so the key issue now is whether Dawson's profits will slip back as they did in 1975 and 1971.

The board believes the cycle has been fundamentally changed by the intrusion of cheap imports at the lower end of the market and, in any case, the previous two troughs were deepened by external economic circumstances and the company's attempts at diversification.

Additionally the group has been strengthening its financial position with the aid of $2.2m (£1.2m) from the disposal of its 50 per cent stake in Amicale Industries.

On trading, it says demand for all products has been at a high level throughout the first six months of the current year. In the case of Cashmere demand exceeds supply in spite of continually rising raw material prices.

Despite the rise in the pound the company is still finding its suppliers, specially China, are demanding "hard" currencies like the Swiss franc and the German mark. However, the company's normal procedure of generating sufficient foreign currency to pay for its materials is continuing to work successfully, though there will be no exchange profits at the year-end as there were last time.

The interim dividend at 2.636p gross incorporates all the allowable increase over last year, and the company has made it clear that it regards its current level of cover at around 8 as being too high.

Bamfords nearly tops £1m

The upward march of profits continues at Bamfords, the agricultural machinery, fencing materials and grey iron castings group, in which Frederick H. Burgess group now has a 57 per cent stake. Having managed a "reasonable increase" in its interim results, the group did not expect the second half's sales to match up.

This proved to be the case with sales of £7.69m being brought in compared with £8.4m over the first six months. The total for the year to September 30 went up from £12.3m to £16.1m and pre-tax profits nearly broke the £1m barrier at 1975-76 peak of £763,000.

The dividend total is double that for last year at 2.66p gross. The current financial year has tehree months to run but the outturn should not be very different.

Rustenburg warning on platinum prices

Despite the recent increase in its platinum price from $162 to $175 an ounce, Rustenburg Platinum Holdings needs "a much higher" platinum price and better prices for its other metals to increase profits above those for last year, says Sir Albert Robinson, chairman.

Platinum demand was unlikely to increase significantly this year. Unless the exporters' allowance was restored for the platinum industry in South Africa, the company's ability to market platinum would be "seriously impaired".

Pearson Longman bid plans blocked

Plans by Lord Cowdray's publishing and printing empire S. Pearson & Son to expand in the United States have been scuppered by the family interests of Lord Thomson. Subsidiary Pearson Longman's $25 a share agreed bid for California-based Wadsworth Publishing has been topped by Thomson Equitable Corporation of Toronto which has picked up a 32 per cent stake in Wadsworth at $31.50. The group, which owns a controlling interest in The Thomson Organization, is understood to be planning a bid for the balance.

Davenports Brewery recoups downturn

Davenports Brewery (Holdings), the Birmingham-based group headed by Mr Neville Frost, has recouped the slight interim downturn. After a 5.7 per cent fall at the halfway mark, pre-tax profits for the 12 months to end-September last climbed by 4 per cent to a peak £1.45m.

A final dividend of 2.984p hoists the total to the maximum permitted 4.192 gross per share.

UNICORN INDUSTRIES

Group discussing possibility of taking 50 per cent stake in Craelius Group, part of Swedish Atlas Copco. Unicorn, the largest non-American abrasives group in the world, may also secure option for remaining 50 per cent.

Stock markets

Gilts hold on to early gains

Not even the smallest monthly gain in the wholesale prices index for 4½ years could put any steam into a lethargic market.

At the outset most prices moved ahead a penny or so on small buying but thereafter they shaded to just below their starting levels as investors continued to play a waiting game.

With so little action—bargains marked were just 4,100—dealers were left with plenty of time to discuss the prospects for a rally by the end of the year. Most now feel that the prospects for this are fading fast mainly because of the lack of progress in securing a measure of agreement on pay with the powerful trade union groups.

Among the casualties of the recent shakeout was Godfrey Davis. In mid-November it reported that it had made more in the six months to September 30 than in the whole year before. Since then the shares have fallen from 83p to 70p. Yet profits this year seem destined to grow from £2.4m to at least £3.25m. If so the price earnings ratio would drop to around five or even smaller.

In the shorter-run the Miners' response to the Coal Board, due to be decided on Thursday, could provoke fresh action but probably not in the direction dealers would like.

The strength of sterling and the wholesale prices news helped gilt-edged stocks to hold on to early gains which at the long end of the market amounted to three-eighths of a point. Shorter dates were one-eighth better or unchanged by the end of trading.

The *FT* Index closed 0.4 down at 486.3, having been 1.6 up at 11 am.

Stores shares performed well above the market average with the notable exception of Burton 'A' which dipped 3p to 78p on talk of a loss when the group are announced later this week. Dealers will be more interested to see what sort of forecast is made. Elsewhere on the pitch Marks & Spencer added 3p to 161p while there were tuppenny gains from Boots at 219p and UDS at 92p.

In engineerings unfavourable comment lowered GKN 6p to 578p and Vickers 6p to 181p. Machine tool manufacturer B Elliott was lowered 8p to 99p after disappointing profits but two others in the sector fared rather better after statements, these being Matthew Hall, mentioned here and up 7p to 180p and WGI where the gain was of 2p to 85p.

Comment also gave a boost to Martonair, up 5p to 160p, and speculative interest was directed into Associated Fisheries, better by 3p to 56p, J Bibby 10p to 200p and Glenlivet where the rise was 10p to 480p in the hope of better terms after the Seagram rejection.

After its annual report Muirhead rose 7p to 178p in electrical where GEC edged ahead a penny to 245p in front of figures. Tesco's stated intention of expanding in Europe made little impression on the shares at 43p but Associated Dairies was hit by selling and closed 8p down to 248p.

Sangers continued to react to last week's gloomy figures, shedding another 9p to 82p while Redfearn rose 7p to 285p in front of figures duetoday.

Equity turnover on December 2 was £62.30m (12,448 bargains).

Up 11p on small buying last week publisher Benn Brothers met with further support to close another 5p ahead at 70p. No names are mentioned as potential suitors, but one theory is that the group could soon go the way of Morgan-Grampian, sold last month to Trafalgar House.

Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, BP, National Westminster, BAT Ind and Dfd, Boots, Dunlop, GEC, Gus 'A', Reed International, Royal, Midland, Manganese Bronze, B Elliott, Sangers and Lofs.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Atkins Bros (I)	4.6(3.6)	0.26(0.13)	—(—)	1.2(0.87)	—	—(3.2)
Bamfords (F)	16.1(12.3)	0.95(0.76)	—(—)	0.88(0.88)	6/2	1.7(0.88)
American Ex (Q)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	35(0.25)	—	—(—)
Carclo Eng (I)	4.1(3.6)	0.42(0.38)	5.0(4.3)	1.5(1.3)	31/1	—(2.6)
Carding Gp (I)	4.9(3.7)	0.34(0.24)	—(—)	0.71(0.50)	—	—(0.19)
Davenports (F)	—(—)	1.4(1.3)	—(—)	1.96(1.7)	—	2.76(2.47)
Dawson Int (I)	40.2(29.7)	5.6(3.9)	—(—)	1.7(1.35)	—	—(3.3)
B. Elliott (I)	31.6(27.5)	2.0(1.9)	7.03(7.44)	2.5(2.0)	3/2	—(4.7)
F. W. Evans (F)	1.5(1.2)	0.32(0.19c)	—(—)	0.53(0.4)	21/2	1.05(1.0)
Globe Inv (I)	—(—)	5.0(—)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(4.1)
Matthew Hall (I)	—(—)	4.3(2.9)	—(—)	1.76(1.57)	31/1	—(6.3)
LOFs (I)	—(—)	1.2a(2.3a)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(3.3)
Macdnld Mrtn (I)	3.9(2.7)	0.50(0.38)	—(—)	3.0(1.3)	6/1	—(6.0)
Mitchell Smrs (I)	9.6(6.2)	1.2(0.88)	—(—)	1.57(0.55)	30/1	—(1.4)
W. E. Norton (I)	4.6(3.3)	0.28(0.16)	—(—)	0.34(0.30)	20/1	—(0.61)
Notts Brick (F)	1.7(1.5)	0.50(0.42)	56.64(37.60)	7.7(3.77)	22/2	11.55(7.27)
Sml Osborn (F)	37.9(33.9)	3.4(2.3)	—(—)	2.57(2.2)	16/1	—(3.2)
Alfred Preedy (I)	25.1(21.0)	0.29(0.20)	—(—)	0.57(0.41)	1/2	—(1.4)
Samuelson F (F)	6.6(4.7)	0.63(0.33)	23.07(13.62)	4.4(7.3)	3/1	7.4(7.3)
Vinten Group (I)	1.8(1.6)	0.35(0.23)	—(—)	0.5(0.5)	28/2	1.54b(2.0)
Sogamana Gp (I)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	1.5(1.0)	18/1	—(3.1)
T. Warrington (I)	—(—)	0.09(0.07)	—(—)	1.16(1.16)	24/1	—(3.1)
WGI (I)	12.9(9.8)	0.49(0.26)	—(—)	2.0(1.5)	27/1	7.8b(5.2)
Whitecroft (I)	26.8(23.8)	1.7(2.1)	16.1(20.1)	4.4(2.3)	—	—(12.0)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss. b Forecast. c Adjusted for amendment of stock valuation. d Cents.

LOFs shares slump on news of £1.2m pre-tax loss

By Tony May

Stripped of its Austin & Pickersgill shipyard by nationalization, London & Overseas Freighters has turned in a loss of £1.2m for the six months to September 30 against a pre-tax profit of £2.3m. The news sent the shares down 5½p to 36p.

Mr Basil Mavroleon, the chairman of what is now a shipowner with a stake in block 16/13 in the North Sea and IDS fanjets, says that nothing is included in the results in the way of interest on government compensation for Austin & Pickersgil. Just how much government stock the group will end with cannot be guessed at, and talks will not be starting with the Government until early in the new year.

Mr Mavroleon has already made it clear that the amount of compensation, which will in any case not be in cash, "will almost certainly be insufficient to yield a return comparable with that expected from A & P during the next few years.

Details of the group's half-year turnround show that a trading loss of £574,000 grew into one of £1.9m and sales of ships brought in only £1.28m against £2.96m. Austin & Pickersgill's dividend amounted to £329,000 against £782,000, and losses on the repayment of foreign currency loans took £489,000 against £348,000.

For the full year to March 31, the board thinks it is unlikely that any corporation tax liability will arise.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Matthew Hall doubts on final quarter

By Richard Allen

Matthew Hall, the mechanical services and *process plant* group, has pushed pre-tax profits up by 48 per cent to £4.35m in the nine months to September 30.

So the prediction from Sir Rupert Speir, chairman, that full-year profits will "achieve the £6m mark" is either a sign that the group is having a poor final quarter or simply a reflection of the group's caution.

Judging by past performance, the latter is almost certainly the case. Last year Matthew Hall made a total of £4.62m after predicting at least £4m

Thus the group need only repeat last year's fourth quarter performance to beat £6m and a figure in excess of £6.5m now seems a more likely outcome.

The nine-month tally has been achieved on the back of almost doubled trading profits of £1.48m from the oil, chemical and industrial engineering division

Mechanical and electrical services increased trading profits 15 *per cent to £1.9m, reflecting* a relatively flat performance. Sir Rupert, however, points out this is a more remarkable *achievement since the building* and construction industries generally have been suffering a severe recession.

The pre-tax total has also been swollen by over £1m compared with £548,000 investment earnings on the group's cash hoard, which could now be in excess of £10m.

The group justifies retention of these balances partly on the need for bonding on overseas operations and denies any takeover aspirations even though lower interest rates should now be trimming returns.

Meanwhile, the group reports that the total order book has increased to around £200m compared with £160m

The interim dividend payment goes up from 2.43p to 2.67p gross. Last year's total amounted to *9.76p* gross.

Mitchell Somers 42 pc ahead

By Michael Clark

Engineer and forgemaster Mitchell Somers, in which Johnson & Firth Brown has at present a stake of 24.7 per cent, reports a rise in pre-tax profits for the first half to October 1 of 42.8 per cent to £1.2m.

Turnover of the West Midlands-based group, which earlier this year took control of Wolverhampton Die Casting, has increased from £6.2m to £9.6m. In spite of this margins slipped by 1 per cent to 13 per cent.

Nevertheless Mr L. J. Thomas, chairman, in his statement accompanying the results, says that the board is pleased at the outcome in what has proved to have been a difficult trading period. But his board is confident that the group will be able to cope with the present cloudy industrial scene. Meantime it pays an interim dividend of 2.37p gross compared with 0.83p and intends to pay a final dividend of not less than 2.37p gross in September, 1978.

Dull trading overseas trims B Elliott midterm outcome

By Alison Mitchell

Difficult trading conditions overseas put the brake on interim profits at machine tool manufacturer and distributor B. Elliott.

In the six months to September 30 the group made a pretax profit of £2m against a previous £1.96m on turnover which showed a 14 per cent rise to £31.4m.

However stripping out the £258,000 post-acquisition profit from the Newall Group, taken over with effect from July 4, group profits slipped £200,000 against the previous comparable period.

And it was the overseas side which did the damage. According to Mr Mark Russell, chairman, there was a sharp downturn in the sales and profits in South Africa, Canada, which slipped into the red, and Australia. In total the overseas companies, after currency adjustments, contributed £145,000 to profits. This compares with £719,000 in the first six months

Mr Mark Russell, chairman.

of last year and £143,000 in the second half.

The group is currently widening its North American markets to take in the United States but the *chairman* warns that there is unlikely to be any real improvement from this side in the current year.

In a more buoyant home market the United Kingdom division increased their profit contribution by a third to £1.6m. The improvement here was across-the-board and the chairman reports that a general upturn in investment has shown through to Elliott's order books.

About 30 per cent of manufactured goods are now *exported* and *the longer-term* potential for further overseas business is high. Several large contracts have recently been *won by the group*

Although making no forecasts for the year end, Mr Russell reports that the signs are encouraging in the United Kingdom. All divisions have shown a substantial increase in orders during the past two *months* and second *half figures* will also include a full contribution from Newall.

Elliott has embarked on a heavy *expansion programme.*

Mannesmann foresees drop in 1977 returns

Mannesmann AG, West German steel pipe and engineering concern says that earnthis year will certainly be lower than 1976. DM302m (about £72m) net profit in the world group as sales stagnated at the 1976 level of DM11,800m.

The group also said that the cash dividend would be lowered from DM7 per DM50 nominal share in 1976 due to the corporate tax reform effective this year. No figure was given for the 1977 dividend.

World sales in the first nine months, *it is* said, totalled DM7,400m, down 9 per cent *from* DM8,200m in the comparable period last year. Only booking of large industrial plant orders would enable sales *this year to attain* last year's level.

Capital spending in the first nine months was DM423m. *Mannesmann said spending* for the year would fall short of 1976's record DM826m.

The sales decline was due in large part to lower turnover in foreign subsidiaries. The group said.—AP-Dow Jones.

Heinz *optimistic*

H. J. Heinz Company, the Pittsburgh-based food manufacturer, says that it is optimistic *that it will* have higher earnings and sales for the year. Heinz said that the results of cost-reduction programmes *aided operating margins.* Last year, Heinz earned $83.8m (about £46.5m) and had sales of $1,800m.

The *group said that* its marketing expenditures more than doubled in the first-half as the expansion of new products into wider market areas was accelerated. For the first-half ended October 26, Heinz reported earnings of $43.3m on sales of $1,000m.

Roussel-Uclaf

Roussel-Uclaf, the French *pharmaceutical* group controlled by Hoeschst AG of West Germany, says that it intends to lift its capital to 334.2m *francs (about £37m) from the* present 151.9m francs by doubling the nominal value of its ordinary shares to 100 *francs and* by *issuing* free shares on a one-for-10 basis. The new shares wil be eligible for dividend payouts retruactive to January 1 this year.

M Henri Monod, director-general, said that he expects the dividend payout for the 1977 *financial* year to be maintained at 9.50 francs net per share paid for 1976 on the increased number of shares.

Airwick plans deal

Airwick Products, consumer products division of Airwick Industries of America, says it will purchase the principal assets of Glamorene Products Corporation, a subsidiary of Lever Brothers. The effective date is expected to be January 3. Airwick Industries is a

International

wholly-owned subsidiary of the *Ciba-Geigy Corp.* Glamorene makes a variety of home cleaning products.

Morocco gets loan

Morocco has obtained a $325m (about £182.2m) seven-year bank loan from a syndicate led by Citicorp International Bank under loan agreements signed in London. Citicorp said the loan would bear interest that varies at 1.125 points above London Interbank offered rates (LIBOR) for Eurodollar de*posits for the first three years* and 1.25 points above LIBOR for the remaining four years. Fees were not disclosed. Repayment in instalments begins after three years of grace. The loan is to finance certain industrial projects under Morocco's fourth development plan.

Agfa purchase

Agfa-Gevaert of America has *completed its purchase of the* Low & Wolf X-ray divisions of IPCO Hospital Supply Corporation, Dr Albert Beken, manag*ing director* of Agfa-Gevaert and Mr John William, president of IPCO announced.

Agfa-Gevaert has acquired the assets of the two IPCO X-ray divisions, including Low's contract as exclusive United States distributor of Agfa-Gevaert X-ray film and other products for about $35.2m (about £19.5m). The purchase price is payable within 12 months and is subject to possible adjustment, but any such adjustment is not expected to be material.

CAIL keeps ahead

The improved profitability of Coal & Allied of Australia (CAIL) continued into the current half-year and is markedly above the depressed first half of last year, the chairman, Mr William Howard-Smith said. Consolidated net operating profit was $A5.55m (about £3.4m) for the year ended June 30. This was against $A5m in the similar period a year ago. Mr Howard-Smith said the group would make a further submission to the New South Wales Government on the 600 million tonne Warkworth coal deposits, near Newcastle in the coming week.

Strike hits Pullman

Mr Samuel Casey jnr, president of the Pullman Company of America, manufacturers of transportation equipment, says that the company's 1977 fourth quarter earnings could be lower than year-ago levels if a strike at five of its Pullman standard plants continues.

Mr Casey said the company was losing $2m (about £1m) a month as a result of a strike which began in October by the United Steelworkers of America.

Vavasseur's latest capital re shaping goes through

Proposal for the third capital reconstruction of J. H. Vavasseur were passed yesterday at an extraordinary general meeting despite opposition from certain first preference stockholders. The group will now proceed with the one-for-one share offer for its successful *advertising subsidiary, the 80.7* per cent-owned Mills & Allen International.

Under the terms of the re*construction* the clearing bank Support Group, which has been nursing Vavasseur since the secondary banking crisis of 1973, will lengthen *its loans* with the result that the reorganized and enlarged group will hold short-term debts of around £203,000 and long-term borrowings of £7.95m.

The reorganization means that a holding of 100 Vavasseur *5p ordinary will become one of* 11 new ordinary of 50p each and, on this basis, 21.9 per cent of the enlarged equity will be available to holders of the Mills & Allen minority shareholders. A further 22.7 per cent will be controlled by Britannia Arrow Holdings (formerly Slater, Walker Securities), the Prudential Assurance will hold 6.3 per cent through London Indemnity, other institutions will take 13 per cent while Hambros Group, whose merchant banking arm has advised Vavasseur through all three reconstruc*tions, will control 7.8 per cent.*

Briefly

NCB PENS-BIT
Black Diamond, subsidiary of NCB, values offer for ordinary *shares of British Investment Trust* at December 2, at 165.3p a share. Guaranteed minimum cash price is 165p.

BANK LEUMI LE-ISRAEL
To avoid additional pressure on share prices, Bank is postponing planned rights issue. Restoration when market conditions appropriate.

SIR JOSEPH CAUSTON
Group wherein Smith St Aubyn has 30 per cent has swung from losses to £365,000 to profits of £318,000 in year to September 30. As at half year, improvement due substantially to temporary employment subsidy. No *dividend* to conserve resources. Chairman is Mr Christopher Bland who has around 26 per cent of company.

CHEMICAL BANK
Chemical Bank has won Federal Reserve Board approval to increase investment in London bank from 30 per cent to 100 per cent. *Name changes to Chemical Bank* International.

INCO BONDS
Group plans to raise $150m on *Eurobond market through sale of* $50m in seven year bonds expected to carry an 8½ per cent interest rate and $100m offering of 15 year bonds expected to carry an 8¾ *per cent coupon.*

Business appointments

Group financial director for Howard Machinery

Mr Richard Overend has joined the main board of Howard Machinery as group financial director.

Mr George Probert has become managing director of K Shoes.

Senior executive posts in The British Linen Bank, which was revived last week, are as follows: Mr D. Bruce Pattullo, director and chief executive; *Mr Thomas* Benfile, deputy chief executive and assistant director; Dr Joan Smith, secretary.

Mr T. L. F. Royle, chairman and chief executive of Hogg Robinson, has become chairman of Hogg Robinson (UK), Hogg Robinson (Life & Pensions), The *Credit Insurance Association*, Control Risks and Hogg Robinson Leasing. Mr J. P. S. Riddell has been made deputy chairman of Control Risks, chairman of Investment Insurance International (Managers) and joins the board of Hogg Robinson Leasing. Mr T. K. Bridgman, Mr H. C. Davies and *Mr A. H. Oscroft have been made* directors of the Credit Insurance Association. Mr M. S. Connell is to be a director of Investment Insurance International and Dr R. Clutterbuck is now on the board of Control Risks.

Mr Roger Denning has joined, as design director, the board of WLG Management Services.

Sir Richard Trehane has become a director of Alfa-Laval.

Dr John Bailey has been made managing director of Guildway.

Mr M. S. M. Johns becomes a director of Empire Plantations and Investments.

Mr Duncan Provan has been made *managing director of* The Bo'ness Iron Company.

Mr Ray Burman has been made executive director of the London World Trade Centre.

Mr Ken Maliphant has become a director of Polygram Leisure.

Mr Watcyn Lewis has joined the board of P. W. Kininmonth and *will also become managing* director of Kininmonth Lewis. Mr Michael Davis joins the board of Kininmonth North America.

Mr Bria Page takes over as chairman and managing director of Standage Power Couplings. Mr Ronald Elliott joins the board.

Mr Michael Murray, managing *director of Rest Assured,* has been elected chairman of William Lawrence.

Mr P. G. Rickards has been made a director of Dyson Refractories.

Mr I. B. Rae has been made a director of Brown & Tawse Tubes.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

ZINC was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash £286.50-87.50 a metric ton; three months £293.50-94.00. Sales, 3,575 tons. Morning.—Cash, £287-87.50; three months £293.75-94.00. Settlement, £287.50. Sales, 1,000 tons. All afternoon prices are unofficial.
PLATINUM was at £95.60 ($175.25) a troy ounce.
RUBBER was quiet (pence per kilo).—Jan. 50.70-50.75; Feb. 51.50-51.55; Jan-March, 51.50-51.55; April-June, 53.35-53.40; July-Sept, 54.25-54.30; Oct-Dec, 56.05-56.10; Jan-March, 57.95-58.00; April-June, 59.85-59.90; July-Sept, 61.60-61.65. Sales: 4 lots at 5 tonnes; 168 at 15 tonnes.
RUBBER PHYSICALS were quiet —

Prices on Dec 5.—GB: Cattle 56.04p per kglw (+0.57). UK: Sheep 125.3p per kg est dcw (−0.5). GB: Pigs 60.5p per kglw (+0.4). England and Wales: Cattle numbers up 2.8 per cent, average price 56.14p (+0.56). Sheep numbers down 6.1 per cent, average price 125.5p (−1.0). Pig numbers up 3.9 per cent, average price 60.5p (+0.4). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 42.2 per cent, average price 55.44p (+0.68). Sheep numbers up 14.9 per cent, average price 126.8p (+1.0). Pig numbers up 13.7 per cent, average price 60.7p (−0.5).

Australia silent on sugar talks with Malaysia

Sydney, Dec 5.—A spokesman for CSR Ltd, marketing agents for Australian sugar exports, said current talks here with Malaysian officials are normal commercial discussions which take place during the term of any contract, but declined to comment on the details being discussed or on any progress made.

The spokesman also declined to comment when asked whether Malaysia was holding up shipments of Australian sugar under the long-term sugar supply contract between the two countries while its demand for lower prices for the contracted sugar is negotiated.

The long-term contract involves exports of 1.65m tonnes of sugar to Malaysia between January, 1975, and December, 1980, or 275,000 tonnes a year.

Sugar industry statistics show actual raw sugar exports were only 252,000 tonnes in 1975 and 202,000 tonnes in 1976.

The CSR spokesman was unable to say how long the talks, which began late last week, will go on.

Datuk Seri Hamzah Abu Samah, the Malaysian Trade Minister, said in Kuala Lumpur last week that Malaysia had submitted proposals for revisions to the contract including lower prices.

The CSR spokesman declined to comment on the current price of sugar under the contract, which is partly linked to sugar industry costs in Queensland.

However, sugar industry sources said the 1977 contract price would be about $US360 a tonne, around twice the level of current world market prices.

The sources added that CSR's chief negotiator on long-term contracts, Mr John Laurie, is not involved in the talks with the Malaysian officials. He is believed to be in Peking at present, possibly for further discussions on a possible long-term contract with China.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	7½%
Barclays Bank	7½%
Consolidated Crdts	7½%
First London Secs	7½%
C. Hoare & Co	*7%
Lloyds Bank	7%
London Mercantile	7%
Midland Bank	6¾%
Nat Westminster	7½%
Rossminster Acc's	7½%
Shenley Trust	8%
TSB	7%
Williams and Glyn's	7½%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 4%, up to £25,000, 4½%, over £25,000, 5%.

Foreign Exchange

The mark and the Swiss franc closed just off their day highs yesterday against the dollar in a very active day's trading dominated by the continued weakness of the dollar and widespread central bank intervention, dealers said.

The move into marks increased strains within the joint European float where the central banks of float members were engaged in intervention to maintain their float parities.

The mark closed at 2.1870 against its 2.2055 close on Friday. The Swiss franc finished at 2.1225 against 2.1345.

Sterling closed one cent higher on Friday's close at $1.8305 while the trade-weighted index closed higher at 63.5 per cent against 63.3.

The yen remained on the sidelines with the prospect of tariff cuts on some imports holding back buying interest, closing at 242.00 against 242.40.

Gold closed in London $1 an ounce higher at $159.625.

Spot Position of Sterling

	Market rates (day's range) December 5	Market rates (close) December 5
New York	$1.8210-8340	$1.8300-8310
Montreal	$2.0175-0305	$2.025-0270
Amsterdam	4.33-38f	4.34-35f
Brussels	63.00-40f	63.05-15f
Copenhagen	11.10-18k	11.10-11k
Frankfurt	4.00-03m	4.00-01m
Lisbon	73.70-74.25e	73.85-74.00e
Madrid	149.75-150.75p	150.50-60p
Milan	1596-1608lr	1603-04lr
Oslo	9.74-79k	9.76-77k
Paris	8.84-87f	8.85-86f
Stockholm	8.72-77k	8.75-76k
Tokyo	438-43y	442-44y
Vienna	28.60-90sch	28.65-75sch
Zurich	3.86-90f	3.88-89f

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971 was 63.5 per cent up 0.2 percentage points from Friday.

Forward Levels

Gold

Discount market

The Bank of England gave assistance on an extremely large scale to relieve the shortage of day-to-day credit on Lombard Street yesterday. The help was all channelled via purchases of Treasury bills directly from the houses, and was thought to have been slightly more than was strictly necessary. This will go a little way towards easing the credit shortage today when payment is due on the balance of the BP offer for sale last June.

There was a fairly large excess of Government disbursements over Revenue transfers to the Exchequer, but this was easily offset by a quite substantial take-up of Treasury bills, and a further sizable rise in the note circulation.

A fair amount of business was transacted in the morning at 5¾-5⅞ per cent, but after the Bank's intervention, houses were able to find balances down at 3-4 per cent at the close.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 7% (Last changed 25/11/77)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 6¾-7½%
Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 5¾ Low 5
Week Fixed: 5¾-6⅛

Treasury Bills (Dis%)
Local Authority Bonds
Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)
Local Authority Market (%)
Interbank Market (%)
First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate %)
Finance House Base Rate 5½%

UK metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver) were: copper down 825 to 637,900; tin up 90 to 3,150; lead up 1,600 to 64,625; zinc up 325 to 64,325; silver unchanged at 19,480,000 troy ounces.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 5.—The New York stock market started mixed today and drifted slowly downward thereafter.

At the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was off 2.95 to 821.03.

Declining issues held an edge over gainers throughout the day, and at the end of trading decliners totalled about 835 compared with some 590 issues showing advances.

Volume was sluggish at 19,160,000 shares.

One analyst said the market was "dull", drifting lower on little demand. Most investors preferred to wait and see if perhaps the current uncertain environment might improve.

Another analyst noted that General Motors Corporation's sales in particular were not as good as the company had predicted, and that the figures "do not bode well" for the industry.

Gold closes $2.10 up

CHICAGO, Dec 5.—GOLD futures closed higher in active trading. On the Comex prices were up $1.60 to $2. Prices on the IMM were up $1.40 to $2.10. NY COMEX, Dec, $159.90; Jan, $160.80; Feb, $161.70; April, $163.70; June, $165.80; Aug, ...

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

US STRAIGHTS ($)	Bid	Offer
Avco 9¾ 1983	101½	102½
Barclays 8½ 1992	99	99½
Bowater 9¼ 1992	100	100½
British Gas 9 1981	103½	104
Citicorp 6¾ 1980	97½	98½
Citicorp 7 1981	97½	98
CECA 8¼ 1989	97½	98½
CECA 8¾ 1987	98¾	99½
DSM 8¾ 1987	98	98½
Elf Aquitaine 8¾ 1985	98	98½
EIB 8¾ 1987	98¾	99
EEC 7¾ 1983	97½	98¼
Fisons 8½ 1992	97¾	98½
Gotaverken 7½ 1982	98½	99½
Gotaverken 8¼ 1987	96½	97
Hydro Quebec 9 1992	98½	99½
ICI 8¼ 1987	99	99½
ITT O Seas 8¼ 1987	98	98½
Light-Services 9 1992	97½	98½
MacMillan Bloed 9 1992	101½	102
Midland Int 8¾ 1992	99½	100½
NCB 8 1987	95½	96½
Nat West 9 1986	103½	104

Union Bank of Switz 4½ 1987	125	126½
Warner Lambert 4½ 1987	81½	83½
Xerox Corp 5 1988	78	80

Source: Kidder Peabody Securities Limited

Recent Issues

	Closing Price
Bath (City of) 11¼% 1985 (£98¾)	£10¼
Brit Land 12% 1st Db 1987 (£100)	£105½
Do 12% Cnv Ln 2002 (£100)	£115
Farmer S.W. 25p Ord (104)	110
Grampian Reg Cncl 10¾% 1985 (£99½)	£7¾
Holden (Arthur) 25p Ord (53)	63
Islington 12¾% 1983-84 (£99¾d)	£10¾
St Helens 11¼% 1985 (£98¾a)	£10¼
Sth Crofty 10p Ord (60p)	72+3
Southwark 11¼% Rd 1984-85 (£99¾d)	£48½

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Com Union (130)	Jan 1	6 prem+1
Record Ridgway (70)	Jan 27	13 prem
Utd Scientific (165)	Jan 18	82 prem
W Ribbons (50)	Jan 13	18 prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a £10 paid. b £20 paid. c £15 paid. d £30 paid. e £25 paid. f Fully paid. g £3 paid. h £35 paid. i £45 paid.

Zinc and lead output

Paris, Dec 5.—Total production of zinc in OECD European countries was provisionally set at 134,276 tonnes in October, compared with 132,777 revised in September, 3 per cent down from the same month a year ago.

Total production of lead was provisionally set at 109,660 tonnes in October, compared with 103,656 tonnes revised in September, 3 per cent up from the same month a year ago.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP Tel. 01-638 8651
The Over-the-Counter Market

1976-77 High	Low	Company	Last Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
44	27	Airsprung Ord	42	—	4.2	10.1	7.8
150	100	Airsprung 18½% CULS	150	—	18.4	12.3	—
39	25	Armitage & Rhodes	36	—	3.3	9.2	15.3
142	105	Bardon Hill	141	—	12.0	8.5	9.7
102	48	Deborah Ord	102	—	5.1	5.0	8.2
216	104	Deborah 17½% CULS	216	—	17.5	8.1	—
147	120	Frederick Parker	147	—	11.5	7.8	7.1
118	45	Henry Sykes	106	—	2.4	2.0	10.1
58	36	Jackson Group	52	—	5.0	9.6	6.1
114	55	James Burrough	108xd	—	6.0	5.6	9.9
340	188	Robert Jenkins	320	—	27.0	8.4	5.4
24	8	Twinlock Ord	14	—	—	—	—
77	57	Twinlock 12% ULS	72	—	12.0	16.6	—
67	51	Unilock Holdings	67	—	7.0	10.4	8.3
87	65	Walter Lawrence	87	—	6.4	7.4	6.4

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

Stock Exchange Prices

Subdued Trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 28. Dealings End, Dec 9. § Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 20

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

FOREIGN STOCKS

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

O—S

T—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

	Index No.	Div. Yield	Earn-ings Yield	Index Previous
The Times Industrial Share Index	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Largest financial shares	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Largest financial and industrial shares	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Commodity shares	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gold Mining shares	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Industrial debenture stocks	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Industrial preference stocks	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
War Loan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

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—Stepping Stones—Non-Secretarial—Secretarial—Temporary & Part Time Vacancies—

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£3,500-£3,800 + FREE LUNCH + GENEROUS STAFF DISCOUNTS

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Recruitment Consultants
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Christmas College Leaver
P.R. £3,000 + +
What a way to start the new year working as Sec/P.A. for a really friendly P.R. exec. assisting on top client contact, organising and attending press receptions etc. 4 weeks hols. Bupa. Season ticket loan and a free Xmas Turkey! ! ! That's got to be the best Chrissy present so 'phone Adrienne Simpson now on 493 6456.
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Staff Consultants

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c. £5,000 p.a. TAX FREE
The General Manager of an International Trading Company requires a first class British PA/Secretary with top secretarial skills for his Abu Dhabi office. As you will be meeting clients a lively personality and attractive appearance are important. Furnished accommodation and car will be provided. Two year contract. 1 month annual home leave. Age 25+. Interviews will be held in London today.
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SENIOR SECRETARIES
Recruitment Consultants
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01-499 0092 : 01-493 5907

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Here's your chance to use your secretarial experience in Advertising or Marketing to get into Public Relations.

This is a secretarial job—but you'll be the third member of the London PR Team of a world wide Oil Producing Company and on the spot when interesting assignments or promotion prospects come along.

As well as secretarial work, for which fast shorthand and typing are needed, your immediate duties will include typing articles for house magazines and outside publications, maintaining a photo library and generally looking after the office administration.

If you have a good education and boundless initiative you can apply by phoning Lois Pope on 01-404 5701.

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Cripps, Sears

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£3,750

Iniative, good education, outgoing personality and legal experience are all essential for this unusual job which involves telephone work and generally organising a very busy Partner who is responsible for the investigation of incidents at sea. He frequently travels abroad and needs a shorthand secretary who will look after his office whilst he is away. Age 24-34.

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9.30-5.30—3 weeks holiday
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01-488 2300

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If you are fluent in German, have all the qualities that go to make a competent secretary and you have experience at director level, then this 'plum' job could be yours.
Based in Lohr am Mainz, a beautiful part of Germany close to Frankfurt, the post is Personal Secretary to the Managing Director of the world's largest manufacturer of industrial glass furnaces and will include some overseas travel to subsidiary companies.
Salary is 1500 Deutschmarkes (approx. £4,500) and other benefits include assistance towards finding accommodation, travel expenses, sick pay cover and holiday arrangements.
If you're looking for such an opportunity and you have the background, contact:—
Lesley Wadsworth on Sheffield (0742) 77556
Professional & Executive Recruitment
PER PROFESSIONAL and EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

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Paper Tiger, an imprint of Dragon's World Ltd., produces high quality illustrated books. We now have an office in the Holland Park area, and our editors require an experienced personal assistant/secretary who is versatile, able to use a phone intelligently, and above all gifted with a flair for office organisation.
The successful applicant must be able to work effectively on personal initiative. Salary will be negotiable.
Please contact Martyn Dean, after 10.30 a.m., on 727 1069 for further details.

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£4,000 W.1.
Personality and good skills required by young Accountant of an International Group. World wide involvement, lively atmosphere and excellent benefits. For immediate interview contact:
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222 0481

NON-SECRETARIAL

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We shall shortly have vacancies for SALES ASSISTANTS in both our well-known Bookshop and our department covering customer requirements for die stamped and printed STATIONERY. These vacancies would suit those who are really keen on a career either in the absorbing and varied field of top-class BOOKSELLING or that of finely produced specialised STATIONERY:
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Please phone Mr. Pemberton or Mr. Korfack, 9.30-11 a.m. or 2.30-6 p.m. 205 Sloane St., London SW1X 9LG. 01-235 2128.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Male or Female
to a busy music composer, based in London. Living in. Salary negotiable. Very interesting job.
Contact Veronique at 01-584 5908 or 01-402 8257

BOOKKEEPER KENSINGTON
Marsh & Parsons Chartered Surveyors require mature bookkeeper, with adaptable and friendly personality. Responsible position with excellent prospects for reliable person with good all round experience. Salary negotiable. Ring Miss White on 937 9623

FILM CO., W.1, require Receptionist, some typing. 18+. Salary neg.—Telephone 734 9907.

AN INTERESTING and unusual secretarial vacancy exists with Great Missenden. firm. Good salary.—Please contact Mr Andrews on Great Missenden 3655.

SECRETARIAL

British Waterways Board

Personal Secretary to Chief Engineer

*£3,345/£3,561 per annum

The post is based at the Board's offices, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, Marylebone, NW1. (Immediately adjacent to Marylebone station). Applicants, male/female, should be experienced secretaries and competent shorthand typists.
*Salary includes supplements and Inner London Allowance. Good conditions of employment, including contributory pension scheme and luncheon facilities. Apply stating age and details of qualifications and experience to Principal Personnel Officer, British Waterways Board, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, WD1 3QA. Quoting reference 61/126.

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TELE SALES
GERMAN & ENGLISH
We require experienced bi-lingual Telephone Sales Person to research English and German computer markets—knowledge of computers not imperative. This is a new appointment and salary is negotiable for the right person. Envisaged earnings £4,500 +. Essential qualities include engaging personality and good telephone manner.
Phone 01-840 1134 for appointment (reverse charges) Monday to Friday.

RECEPTIONIST
For busy Harley Street Practice to start as soon as possible. Some slow typing, and nursing experience an advantage. Hours 9-5.30. Salary around £2,700 negotiable.
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c. £3,000
FASHION
Receptionist with French (English mother tongue), well groomed and confident, with a happy personality and a sense of responsibility for involving job with Fashion Company that has showrooms in Paris, Italy and London. Age 18+. Salary c. £2,800.
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Receptionist with typing and telephone experience for West End Advertising Company to work with lively and informal young team dealing with many interesting accounts. Busy but relaxed atmosphere. Age 21+. Salary c. £3,000.
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FOR INTERVIEW

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Lively person required for well known advertising agency to work in busy reception area. Knowledge of switchboard given, training given if necessary. Salary £3,100.
For full details of this super position ring
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EXPERIENCED TEACHERS of Commercial subjects including shorthand and typewriting—required for January by well-known Secretarial College in Hampstead. Please telephone or write to The Director of Training, St. Godric's College, 2 Arkwright Road, London, N.W.3. Tel: 01-435 9831.

S.R.N./INTERVIEWER required to join expanding lively team to work in W.1 area. Admin background preferable. Good prospects. Ring Mrs Foster on 486 5225. Rand Services (Emp. Agy.).

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MARSH & PARSONS CHARTERED SURVEYORS
In Kensington Church Street need someone special to work in the Senior Partner's Office in the New Year. Requirements include: typing, audio, occasional shorthand, telephone work, a large sense of humour plus 1001 other odds and ends. Non-smoker essential. Salary negotiable. £2,800+.
Ring Madeleine White on 937 9622

EARN £3,500 WHILE YOU LEARN
TRAIN AS A LEGAL SECRETARY
If you have shorthand or audio, train with this dynamic City practice. Rapid promotion and great perks—plus a salary increase after 3 months.
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COLLEGE LEAVERS secure your job for 1978. Ring Judy Farquharson Ltd. (Recruitment Consultants). 01-493 8824.

INTERESTED IN TRAVEL ?—Small cultural tours company, Sloane St., requires Secretary, 18-22.—Telephone: 01-730 7281, Mon.-Fri.

£4,000 PLUS 10% BONUS ! Opportunity for well-groomed Secretary to work for Managing Director of prosperous manufacturing co. LVs, 4 weeks holiday, 5 pm finish. Male or female. Brook Street Bureau, 589 0091. Employment Service.

BERMUDA.—Conveyancing Legal Executive. £7,000. See Legal Vacs.

CITY BI-LINGUAL English/Italian P.A./Sec., aged 21+, to work for well-known insurance company. Good typing and shorthand in both languages essential. Lots of client contact and responsibility. For correct qualifications—up to £4,000 p.a. JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

W.1.—Expanding Production Company needs competent young P.A./Secretary, 21-ish, for Marketing Division. Good formal skills and intelligent approach, lots of involvement and responsibility for the right person. To £3,500 p.a. — JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

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Requires experienced Secretary Receptionist for small lively office, informal atmosphere.
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SECRETARY
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£3,800
For architect working on new London teaching hospital. Age 25-30. This is an interesting and responsible appointment which involves a certain degree of office management and good secretarial skills.
Applicants should have experience in keeping office accounts and an ability to deal with people.—Please write or telephone Mrs Barber, 46 Queen Anne Street, W.1. 935 0694.

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Career Opportunity for capable P.A./Secretary. Complete back up to go-ahead Executive Director of busy Newspaper Group. Charming personality, self-motivated, able to work on own initiative. A sense of humour appreciated. Luxurious riverside office, electric typewriter and decent coffee. Please phone Clare, urgently, 01-353 7248

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Competent Secretary required for small, friendly Company, in Mayfair. Good typing & telex, shorthand useful. Very pleasant own office with I.B.M. typewriter. Economics/Banking/Travel background useful. A good command of the English language is important. Knowledge of other languages useful but not essential. The Company is currently expanding, therefore there will be plenty of scope for progression within the job. Salary £3,200-£3,500.
Please ring: 493 4318

COLLEGE LEAVER FOR EXPORT PUBLISHING
Export sales manager of world famous paperback publishers needs an intelligent young College Leaver with sound secretarial training to look after him, run the office when he is away and meet foreign reps. Up to £3,000 + bonus. Miss Burr, CHALLONERS, 5-7 Brompton Road, S.W.3. 581 2753 (Employment Agency).

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Interesting secretarial role at £3,600 for a suitable person willing to accept responsibilities and capable of looking after senior personnel records. Generous benefits. Mrs Ganley, CHALLONERS, 193 Victoria St., S.W.1. 828 3845 (Employment Agency).

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Marketing Director at major British tourist organisation has a really busy, interesting and varied job for a well educated Secretary accustomed to working without too much supervision. Miss Gibbs, CHALLONERS, 19-23 Oxford Street, W.1. 437 9030 (Employment Agency).

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£3,500
3% MORTGAGE AFTER 3 MONTHS
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STAFFSCENE

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For Executive Assistant to the general manager at famous company's head office. Please hear more on 01-493 7272
DON'T SPEAK, JUST LISTEN

SHHH ! Don't tell anyone but a Director of a W.1 Perfumery and Herbal Company seeks a Secretary/Receptionist to assist in the running of a small office and become involved in the business, for example when new products come on to the market. Minimum shorthand 80 w.p.m. Salary £2,900/£3,300 negotiable. Enquiries to Agents (Employment not Secret) ACCORD STAFF AGENCY, 34 Maddox Street, W.1. 629 1894.

AUDIO SECRETARY, some shorthand, for young Solicitor. Friendly office in Chancery Lane. Criminal/Civil work. Salary negotiable.—01-405 1874.

ADMIN./SEC. for West End Leisure Co. Must be good organizer who genuinely wants responsibility as boss delegates. £3,300.—Jaygar Careers. 730 5148.

SECRETARY for lively architects. Must be able to type, laugh and stay cool. Salary negotiable c. £3,000.—373 8483.

COLLEGE LEAVER Secretaries, tremendous choice of New Year jobs at Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 353 7696.

LUXURY OFFICES, MAYFAIR, W1. Second P.A./Secretary, 25-24-ish for chairman, large catering organisation. Good shorthand and typing, education and general secretarial experience. Own responsibilities in a challenging area of varied activities. Plenty of client contact and socialising. To £3,800 p.a., free lunch, many useful fringe benefits. JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT req.—See Non. Sec.

SECRETARIAL

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SECRETARY

to work for the Area Medical Officer and his staff at this large Area Health Authority.
You'll be working as part of a busy, dynamic team involved in the planning and development of the medical services for the area. It's a varied and interesting job and will bring you into contact with medical staff of all grades—particularly post-graduate medical students.
You'll need good audio (or shorthand) speeds and a flair for organization but no previous knowledge of medical terminology is necessary.
The starting salary will be £3,200+.
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As Sec. working as part of a lively team concerned with deep sea diving. Client contact. Super Co. Salary £3,400.

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Make a real contribution as Sec. working on major Tourist Magazine. Salary £3,100.
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Abford House, 15 Wilton Rd., S.W.1.

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The overseas department of Countdown Card is looking for a reliable and ambitious, tri-lingual assistant to handle secretarial duties initially, progressing after training to client liaison and sales in U.K. and abroad. Age early 30s. Salary to commence £3,950, but after six months considerable increase plus bonus. Please apply Susie Stevens, 404 5991.

GET MORE VARIETY IN PERSONNEL & TRAINING
Very interesting and varied post for efficient young Secretary assisting the Personnel and Training Officer at well-known publishing house near Fleet Street. Plenty of action. Starts at over £3,000. Miss Kaye, CHALLONERS, 23 Wormwood St., E.C.2. 638 3846 (Employment Agency).

M.D.'s AIDE AT AROUND £4,000 PLUS FREE LUNCHES
Lots of client contact for really efficient Secretary who likes working in a small, busy environment at board level on wide-ranging tasks. Miss Killen, CHALLONERS, 145 Oxford Street, W.1. 437 5022 (Employment Agency).

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
Secretary to Finance Manager in friendly young department of international cosmetic company, SW1. Duties—correspondence, administration, reports. Benefits include 4 weeks holidays, non-contributory pension scheme, insurance plan. For details call
CENTACOM STAFF
Recruitment Consultants
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836 3875 Strand
734 2664 Regent St.

Royal Academy of Music
SECRETARY
With good shorthand/typing speeds for interesting and varied work. The post would suit a young person with secretarial experience.
Hours 9.30-5, generous holidays and subsidised lunches. Applications in writing to the Administrative Services Manager, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT.

INTERESTING ROLE IN SALES NEAR KNIGHTSBRIDGE
Busy Manager responsible for sales and distribution of internationally famous soft drink throughout the U.K. has very interesting and varied job for a competent young Secretary with plenty of personal initiative. £3,250 + bonus. Miss Strauss, CHALLONERS, 91 Regent Street, W.1 (Employment Agency). 734 9476.

ADVERTISING M.D. needs top calibre P.A./Sec. with diplomacy, initiative and organizational ability. £4,000.—Jaygar Careers. 730 5148.

SLOANE SQUARE based Co. needs organized Secretary for small office marketing health food products. £3,500.—Jaygar Careers. 730 5148.

PUBLISHERS of wide ranging books need P.A. with good skills for Marketing Director who's out and about a lot. Salary £3,200-£3,600. 20s. COVENT GARDEN BUREAU, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 353 7696.

ADMIN. ASSISTANT, 25 TO 30ISH to Head of prestigious college, WC2: formal skills must be good but as important the ability to deal with professional people, organize committee meetings and participate at top level; own delightful office; around £4,000 n.a.—JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

SENIOR SEC./P.A. (35+) for Partner, E.C.3. Demanding job. Admin. ability and shorthand. 4 weeks hols. £4,000 neg. Regency Personnel. 636 9135/6.

SECRETARY required for travel company South Kensington. Holiday travel concessions. Salary according age and experience. Ring Mrs. Patterson, 589 0541.

FRENCH P.A. to managing director of famous paper manufacturer's co., E.C.1. Good speeds and experience. Age 25 plus. £4,000 per annum. Merrow Agency. 636 1487.

NO COMMUTING
£3,350-£3,500
Experienced P.A. with 1st class Secretarial skills, for young headmaster, of independent boarding school, in Hertfordshire.
RING MRS. GRAVES
Radlett (09276) 6131

Middlesex Polytechnic
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
£3,282-£3,622 p.a. inc.
Ready to move up to a more responsible job where your first rate secretarial skills will be properly appreciated ?
Find out more about this interesting job providing secretarial and administrative back-up in the academic registry at our new Bounds Green offices. You would join a small team involved in the preparation of statistics and management information.
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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
Session 1977-78
LONDON TRANSPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by the London Transport Executive (hereinafter referred to as "the Executive") for leave to introduce a Bill under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:—

1. Construction of the following works:—
In Greater London—
In the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark—Work No. 1.
A railway (3,356 metres in length) being a deviation of part of the lines of railway authorised by the London Transport Act 1971 and London Transport (No. 2) Act 1971.
In the London borough of Newham—Work No. 2.
An interchange footbridge and ticket hall enlargement at the Executive's West Ham station.
2. Abandonment of the construction of so much of the lines of railway authorised by the London Transport Act 1971 and London Transport (No. 2) Act 1971 in the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark as is rendered unnecessary by the construction of the proposed railway. Work No. 1.
3. Special provisions in connection with the construction and maintenance of the proposed works and as to the use of electrical power on the proposed railway. Work No. 1. Power to open up the surface of and temporarily stop up parts of East Smithfield and Tench Street in the London borough of Tower Hamlets and Manor Road in the London borough of Newham.
4. Acquisition of lands, subsoil and new rights and power to use lands in the areas aforesaid of the proposed works. The said lands include the public open space (having an area of 4,882 square metres) adjoining Bradon Street and Paradise Street in the London borough of Southwark, and the public garden (having an area of 2,285 square metres) known as King George's Field, Lower Road, in the London Borough of Southwark. Extinction of rights of way over the lands to be acquired and special provisions as to entry and compensation.
5. Extension of time for the compulsory purchase of certain lands or easements authorised to be acquired by the London Transport Act 1972 and London Transport Act 1975.

And Notice is further given that plans and sections of the said intended works including plans of the lands proposed to be acquired or used compulsorily, together with a book of reference to such plans have been deposited for public inspection with the Director-General and Clerk to the Greater London Council at the County Hall, Westminster Bridge, London SE1 7PB, and a copy of so much of the said plans, sections and book of reference as relates to each of the areas hereinafter mentioned has been deposited for public inspection with the officers hereinafter mentioned as follows:—
as relates to the London borough of Tower Hamlets with the Chief Executive and Town Clerk of that borough at his office at the Town Hall, Patriot Square, London E2 9LN; as relates to the London borough of Southwark with the Chief Executive and Town Clerk of that borough at his office at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB; and as relates to the London borough of Newham with the Chief Executive and Town Clerk of that borough at his office at the Town Hall, High Street South, London E6 2RP.

On and after the 2nd day of December 1977 a copy of the Bill for the intended Act may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of 30p for each copy at the undermentioned offices.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it. If the Bill originates in the House of Commons the latest date for depositing such a Petition in that House will be 30th January 1978; if it originates in the House of Lords the latest date for depositing such a Petition in that House will be 6th February 1978. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

DATED this 28th day of NOVEMBER 1977.

V. J. MOORFOOT
London Transport Executive
55, Broadway,
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Mayfair Apartments, 9 Charles St., London, W.1. 01-493 6640.
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Rafi & Co., Estate Agents, 117 Oxford Street. London. W.1. 01-734 4515.
Ruck & Ruck. 13 Old Brompton Road. London, S.W.7. Tel. 584 3721.
Sheriff & Co., 48 Kensington Gdns. Sq., W.2. 01-229 6527.
Stobell Estates Office. 13 Berkeley St., W.1. 724 1706/723 3844.
Sunreign Agency for Holiday lettings and Property Sales. 373 6364.
Suzylet & Co., 27 Ivor Place, N.W.1. 01-262 5589.
Warburton & Co., for flats/houses in London. 01-730 9954.
Winkworth & Co. 48 Curzon Street. W.1. 01-499 3121.

Education

David A. Rigley, Educational Consultant, Ely (Cambs) 3020.
Mrs Thomsetts Secretarial College, Intensive Courses, Oxford. 721530.
St Godrics Sec. College, 2 Arkwright Rd., N.W.3. 01-435 9831.

SCHOOLS, LANGUAGE SCHOOLS & COURSES

Assc. of Recognised English Language Schools, 43 Russell Sq, *WC1B 5DH.* 01-580 7665.
Belmont School of English, 6 Ethelbert Crescent, Margate. 0843 20678.
Colchester English Study Centre. 19 Laxden Road, Colchester 44422.
Int. House Teacher Training, RSA & Eng. classes. 01-437 9167.
Langham Secretarial College, 18 Dunraven St., W1Y 3FE. 01-629 2904.
Linguaphone Language Tuition Centre. 01-580 0141/4.
Linguarama, 53 Pall Mall, S.W.1. 01-930 7697.
Living Language Centre, Highcliffe House, Clifton Gdns., Folkestone. 58536.
London Arabic Centre. Complete Arabic courses. 01-437 5543.
London School of English. (for specialists), 15 Holland Pk. Gdns., (R.S.) W.14. 602 0282.
Regent School of English, 11 Gt Russell St, London, W.C.1. 637 9988.
Surrey Language Centre. All teaching by experienced nationals. 661 9174.
Underwood College, 188 Old Christchurch Rd, Bournemouth. 0202 22624.

TUTORIAL

French & Italian offered by qualified native teachers. 01-935 8641.
Holborn Tutorial College, 47 Red Lion St, W.C.1. 01-405 8844.
Kensington Private Tutorial College, S.W.7. ' O ' & ' A ' level. 01-584 7195.
Knightsbridge Tutors Ltd, 19 Ovington Gardens, SW3 1LE. 01-584 1619.
Speak English Perfectly, Diction, Public Speaking, Private Tuition. 638 5495.
Wolsey Hall Postal Tuition. AJ5, Oxford, OX2 6PR. 0865 54231.

Travel

Air Save Travel. Greece, Italy, Spain, Germany. 01-408 1753.
Alkam Travel. Budget holidays/economy flights. 01-370 3183.
Allied Tours. Kenya specialists and world wide flights. 01-437 0888.
Delfin Travel. Worldwide Service. 01-439 7062.
Flamingo Travel. Leading economy flight specialists. 01-439 7751.
Greece Economy Travel Centre, G. T. Air Agents. 01-734 3018.
Intercontinental Travel flights to Europe, Africa, India. 01-580 4074.
La La Travel, Flights to Europe, F. East, S. America, Africa. 01-437 6071.
M.T.O. (Mauritius & Seychelles). 01-437 6394.
New Era Travels. 01-437 7243. India, Jo'burg, Rio, Gulf & Africa.
Sams Travel Bargain. Aus., N.Z., F. East. 01-836 2621.
Sol Shipping. World wide travel agents, cruise/ferry spec. 01-637 4551.
Sunley Travel (European Specialists). 01-828 1373/1558.
The Travel Centre. Low cost flights, exotic holidays. 01-437 9194/2059.
United Air Travel. Economy with service. All worldwide flights. 01-439 2326.
West-Lin Air. 345 Archway Road, N.6. 01-348 0172.

HOLIDAY BROCHURE SERVICE

Aardvark Expeditions. 14 Coleridge Road, London, N.8. 01-340 7598.
Algarve Villas. 8 Barclay Road, Croydon CR0 1JN. 01-680 3444.
Beaver (French Canal Cruises), St Olave's, Gt. Yarmouth, *Fritton 662.*
Bellagien Italian Villa Holidays. 863 Green Lanes, N21 2QS. 01-360 7234.
Cosmopolitan Holidays. Corfu & Crete specialists. 637 5072.
Estoril Travel (Portugal). 3 Bute Street, S.W.7. 01-524 4226.
European Express. 80 King Street, Twickenham, Middlesex. 01-891 0771.
Eurovillas, 57 North Hill, Colchester, Essex. Tel. (0206) 47336.
Exodus Expeditions, 167 Earls Court Road, London SW5 9RF. 01-373 7895.
Gozo Old Millhouses Ltd., 4 Burnaby Gdns., London W3 3DT. 01-995 9373.
Greek Islands Club. 66 High Street. Walton-on-Thames. Surrey. Tel. 20477.
Greeksail Holidays Ltd. 17 Wigmore Street, London, W.1 01-580 5815
John Morgan Travel. 35 Albemarle Street, London W.1. 01-499 1911.
Just Crete/Just Corsica. 5 Queen Annes Court, Windsor. Berks. Tel. 56515.
Palmer & Parker Holidays. 63 Grosvenor Street, London W.1. 01-493 5725.
Singles Holidays. 23 Abingdon Road, London, W.8. 01-937 6503.
Solemar Holidays Ltd. 62 Shirley Road. Croydon CR0 7EP. 01-654 3034.
Starvillas Ltd. 25-27 High St, Chesterton, Cambs. Tel. (0223) 69622 (24 hrs)
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Sunvil Travel. 88 Sheen Rd., Richmond. Surrey TW9 1UF. 01-940 0082.
Trek America. 62 Kenway *Road. London. S.W.5. 01-370 4013.*
Vacances Franco-Britanniques Ltd. 15 Rodney Rd., Cheltenham. Glos. GL50 1HX. (0242) 26238.
Villas Abroad. 322 Croydon Road, Beckenham, Kent. 01-658 3330.
Whiterose Travel. 77 George St., *Portman Sq., W.1. 01-486 4303/4/5.*

STUDENT FACILITIES

Euro-Academy Ltd. 77a George St., Croydon CR0 1LD. 01-681 2905/6.
Hosts Student Travel Service. 161 Gt. Portland St., W.1. 01-580 7733.
London Student Travel. 117 Euston Rd., London. N.W.1. 01-388 7051.
Vacation Work. For working hols. 9 Park End St., Oxford. Tel. Oxford 41978.

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John Morgan Travel Skiing, 35 Albemarle St., London, W.1. 01-439 1911.
Travel Workshop, 5 Garrick St., London. W.C.2. *01-836 7836.*

HOTELS

Alexander Hotel, 9 Sumner Place. London. S.W.7. Tel. 01-581 1591.
Hotel Bookings Golden Services. Tel. 408 1134. Telex 298559.

CARAVANS, CHALET & BOATING HOLIDAYS

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Gates Group, Ford. London, Essex, Herts. USA/Aust. Ford. 504 4466.
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Palmer Bros., Mazda distributors, S.E. London and Kent, 01-302 3290.
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CAR DEALERS

Alan Day Ltd. Mercedes-Benz/VWAudi, 341-351 Finchley Road, Hampstead, London. NW3 6ET. 01- 435 1133.
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Citroen, Continental Car Centre, 1 Hale Lane. N.W.7. *01-959 1415.*
Colin Grant, W.1. B.M.W., Mercedes, Porsche, Ferrari. 01-794 0039.
Geoffrey Sizzey. Peugeots. Wisborough Green (0403 78) 661. W. Sussex.
Mercedes-Benz, Home & Export, Gaylord Ltd, 197 Tooling High St, S.W.17. 767 0078.
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Scimitar Moto of Catford. 8-10 Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6. 01-690 2813.
Toyota Top Dealer London. " Fulton ", 01-748 2677 & 01-969 0012.
William Loughran, Rolls-Royce Bentley dealers, Preston 0772, 613114/ 613213.

GARAGE SERVICES

Alan Day, Malvern Road, N.W.16. Mercedes Service. Tel. 01-328 4721.
Auto Services. 179 The Broadway, W. Hendon, N.W.9. 202 0438.
Car Valeting by Clean Machine. Russell Sq. 01-837 8912/9449.
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Crossroads Auto Centre, specialists mechanical repairs. 328 7424.
Jaguar Services. Specialist repairs for Jaguars. 01-639 1000.
J & H Motors Accident Repairs. 58 Harleyford Road, Vauxhall, S.E.11. 01-735 8820/1167.
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Bromley Motor Co, motor caravan specialists. 01-464 1134.
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K. J. Caravans Ltd. 71-81 Edinburgh St., Hessle Rd., Hull. 26889.
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Beaumont Plumtree & Co., 201 Cranbrook Road. Ilford, Essex. 01-518 1131.
Bernard Howard Brokers. 811 High Rd., N. Finchley N12 8JT. 01-445 6619.
Berns Brett & Co. Ltd. 190 Forest Rd., E17 6JG. 01-520 0214/01-520 7252/3.
Charles Angus & Co (Ins Brokers), 193 Victoria St, S.W.1. 01-828 7595/6.
Dutton and Clark Ltd, 44 Coombe Lane, SW20 0LU. 01-946 4322/1194.
Joseph Hadley, Sophia House, 76/80 City Rd, E.C.1. 01-253 4333. Telex 21678.
Metropolitan Insurance Brokers Ltd (Motor & General), 434 Garratt Lane, SW18 4HN. 01-947 0131.
Metropolitan Mortgage Consultants Ltd, 234 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London, S.W.15. 01-789 8038.
Michael Chamberlin & Co, Assoc. Insurance Brokers, 222/225 Strand, W.C.2. 01-353 4548.
Michael Lewis Associates Ltd—Tax—Sheltered plans for U.K. and expatriate investors, 3 Castle St., Cardiff. 0222-396512.
Moffett & Co. (London) Ltd. Percy House. 796 *High St., N.17. 01-808 2003.*
Residential & Commercial Mortgages DBC Ltd. 01-680 0826.
School Fees Insurance Agency Ltd. 10 Queen St., Maidenhead, Berks SL8 1JA. (0628) 23461.
Sports Car Ins. Specialists Ltd. 201 Green Lanes, N.13. 01-889 3434.

Catering-Private & Commercial

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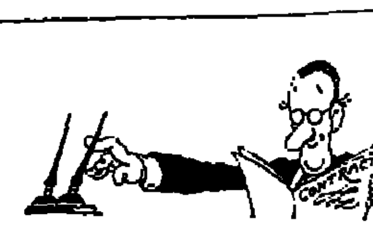
Business to Business



Broadcasting

12.30 pm ITV — No one can be seen to enjoy A Ripe Old Age quite as effectively as Andrew Cruickshank, still better known to most of us as Dr Cameron of Finlay fame. Now in league with the perennial Polly Elwes, he is fronting a very worthwhile Anglia series of help and guidance for the elderly.

9.25 pm BBC1 — And at the other end of the day, one of Britain's newest, but best "organized" OAPS Mr Jack Jones (the ex-union leader, not the singer) delivers the Richard Dimbleby lecture.—I.R.R.

BBC 1

12.45 pm, News. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45-2.00, How Do You Do! 2.10, Rugby, Oxford v Cambridge. 3.55, Play School. 4.20, Astronut. 4.25, Jubilee Jackanory. 4.40, Animal Magic. 5.05, John Craven. 5.10, Big John, Little John. 5.35, Ivor the Engine.

5.40 News. 5.55, Nationwide.
6.40 One More Time.
7.10 Into Infinity. Outer-space Odyssey with Brian Blessed, Joanna Dunham.
8.00 It Ain't Half Hot Mum.
8.30 Mastermind.
9.00 News.
9.25 Richard Dimbleby Lecture: Jack Jones on the Human Face of Labour.
10.15 Tonight.
10.55 Bellamy's Europe.
11.25 Weather.

Regional variations (BBC 1):
BBC WALES.—5.10-5.35, Horses Galore. 5.55-6.17, Wales Today. 6.40, Heddiw. 7.10, Pobol Y Cwm. 7.40-8.30, The Oregon Trail. SCOTLAND.—5.55-6.17, Reporting Scotland. 6.40, Tom and Jerry.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 am, Play School. 2.30 pm, Trade Union Studies. 3.00, Inside the Press. 3.30-3.55, Politics Now—the Loneliest Job.

7.00 News Headlines.
7.05 Tele-France.
7.30 Newsday.
8.10 Floodlit Rugby, Leigh or St Helens v Salford.
9.00 The Goodies.
9.30 The Water Margin.
10.15 The Man Alive Report. The No-One-Wants-to-Talk-about-it story.
11.05 News.
11.15 The Old Grey Whistle Test with Greg Kohn, Café Jacques.
11.55-12.00, Stephen Thorne reads Poem, by Elizabeth Bishop.

Thames

9.30 am, Cartoon. 9.35, Documentary: The Maharajahs (r). 10.25, Film: Private's Progress, with Richard Attenborough, Dennis Price, Terry-Thomas, Ian Carmichael.* 12.00, The Wotsit from Whizz-bang. 12.10 pm, Pipkins. 12.30, A Ripe Old Age (r). 1.00, News. 1.20, Help! 1.30, Crown Court. 2.00, After Noon. 2.25, The Stars Look Down (r). 3.20, Looks Familiar. 3.50, The Sullivans. 4.20, Sooty. 4.45, Magpie. 5.15, Sportscene.

5.45 News. 6.00, Thames.
6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 Get Some In! (r).
7.30 Oh No It's Selwyn Froggitt.
8.00 Charlie's Angels.
9.00 Rock Follies.
10.00 News.
10.30 Midweek Match.
11.25 Silver Jubilee Wrestling Spectacular.
12.10 am, Play: Vampire, with Judy Carne.
12.25 Epilogue.

* Black and white.
(r) Repeat.

ATV

10.15 am, Boney (r). 11.05, Of Men and Women. 11.55, Parsley. 12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, ATV News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Mediterranean Venture. 5.45, News. 6.00, ATV Today. 6.35, Crossroads. 7.00, Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-12.10 am, Thames.

Southern

9.30 am, Film. The Mudlark, with Irene Dunne, Alec Guinness.* 11.05, Steal Away. 11.35, The Borderers. 12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Southern News. 1.30, Crown Court. 2.00, Houseparty. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, Captain Nemo. 5.20, Crossroads. 5.45, News. 6.00, Day by Day. 7.00, ATV. 7.30, Thames. 12.10 am, Southern News. 12.20, Weather. Epilogue.

Channel

1.18 pm, Channel news. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, University Challenge. 5.45, News. 6.00, Report at Six. 6.35, ATV. 7.00, Treasure Hunt. 7.30, Thames. 12.10 am, Pub Entertainer of the Year. 12.40 am, ...

Granada

9.30 am, The Munsters.* 9.55, Cartoon. 10.00, To the Wild Country. 10.50, Banacek. 12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, This Is Your Right. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, This Is Your Right. 5.15, Crossroads. 5.45, News. 6.00, Granada Reports. 6.30, Emmerdale Farm. 7.00, Thames. 12.10-12.40 am, George Hamilton IV.

Tyne Tees

Scottish

Ulster

Border

Grampian

HTV

Westward

Anglia

Yorkshire

Radio

(continued on page 28)

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IN MEMORIAM

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STAR WARS. — Dominion, Tottenham Court Road and Leicester Square Theatre from Dec. 27. Advanced box office now open.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 27

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Write now for a free brochure of Help the Aged's Christmas Cards and Gifts.

If you have decided against sending cards why not inform your friends that you are making a donation to Help the Aged instead.

The Hon. Treasurer
HELP THE AGED
Room TX1, 32 Dover Street
London W1A 2AP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIABETES
will have to be conquered

AND YOU CAN HELP TO SAY WHEN

A donation to our research fund will be well spent. To: The Rt. Hon. Lord Redcliffe-Maud, G.C.B., C.B.E., British Diabetic Association (Dept T104), 3/6 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7EE.

IS YOUR HOUSE TOO LARGE? Your house can be beautifully used if you gift it to the National Charity (Help the Aged). One portion will be modernised free of cost to you (usually self-contained) for your own or your surviving spouse's use for life—free of rent, rates, external repairs. Other portions converted for retired people. Please write without obligation to: The Secretary, Help the Aged Housing Appeal Ltd., 26 Dover St., London, W.1.

WORKING Farm Museum in Norfolk seeks assistance. See Gen. Vacs.

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AFRICA.—Freelance Sales Executive.—See Commercial Services.
CASH & CREDIT DRAPERY Business for sale. See Business For Sale.
NEW BRAZILIAN BOMBSHELL.—See Business Opportunities.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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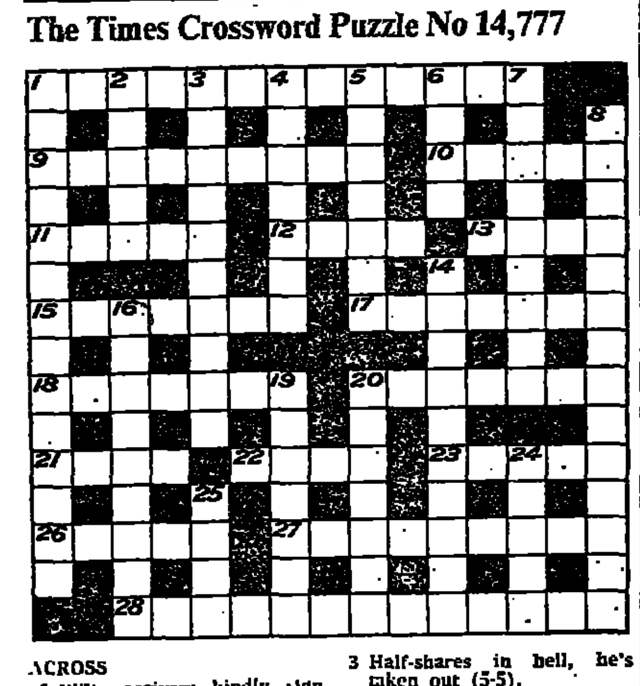
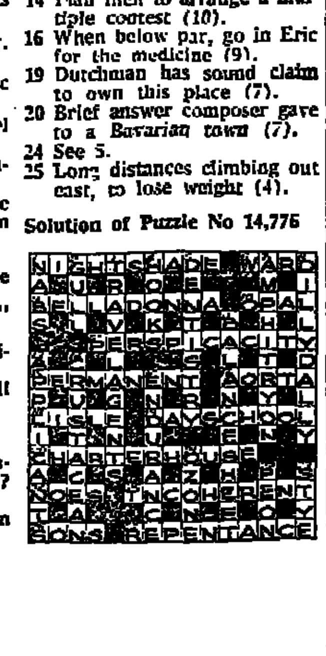
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,777



ACROSS
1 Will receivers kindly sign after one for them? (13).
9 All-round security for one specializing in stolen hand-jewelry? (4-5).
10 Yankee curtailed trip here in Africa (5).
11 Time is against us (5).
12 Eager for the return of 5, 24, for instance (4).
13 It flows in Scotland backed by spoken U.S. agreements (4).
15 Member in the fifth row. That's not so full (7).
17 A centre of the Hellenic world in London (7).
18 Art must represent the level of society (7).
20 Dressed for the race in ventilated wrapper (7).
21 Drive back for example right to the hairpin turn (4).
22 Our obligation (4).
23 It could be wax or wane (5).
26 Blake "made a —— pen" from a hollow reed (5).
27 Tee up late perhaps in uniform fashion (9).
28 School that covers all risks? (13).

DOWN
1 Where Keats might have enjoyed London bird-song? (8, 6).
2 No established churchman for the time being (5).
3 Half-shares in bell, he's taken out (5-5).
4 Fabulous horseman (7).
5, 24 Singer had Italian taped anyhow, having been born one (7, 5).
6 It looks very black in Kentucky (4).
7 Beach musician gets the bird! (9).
8 Not Scott's Ellen of the lake, but Margaret (the wild-sounding one) (4, 10).
14 Plan then to arrange a multiple contest (10).
16 When below par, go in Eric for the medicine (9).
19 Dutchman has sound claim to own this place (7).
20 Brief answer composer gave to a Bavarian town (7).
24 See 5.
25 Long distances climbing out east, to lose weight (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,776



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